

Detective Work: Mastering Inference with Max

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning from a text by using evidence and personal knowledge.

Read the scenarios below. Use your detective skills to infer what is happening, how characters are feeling, or what might happen next. Remember to explain your reasoning using 'because'.

Max the monkey sat in the centre of his jungle classroom. He was tapping his chin with a pencil, his brow furrowed as he stared at a long list of numbers on the whiteboard. Suddenly, his face brightened, his tail curled into a tight spring, and he let out a loud, triumphant 'Aha!' while scribbling the final answer in his notebook. Across the room, Ellie the elephant sighed quietly, slowly folding her ears over her eyes as she pushed her unfinished worksheet to the edge of her desk.

Word bank: Inference · Evidence · Deduction · Clues · Atmosphere · Implied · Reasoning

1. How is Max feeling at the beginning of the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your inference. (2 marks)

2. What does Max's 'Aha!' and the curling of his tail suggest about his success with the task? (2 marks)

3. Based on her actions, how is Ellie feeling about her work? Explain why you think this. (2 marks)

4. What is the relationship between Max's mood and Ellie's mood in this scene? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. If Max were to walk over to Ellie, what do you think he would say? Write a short sentence of dialogue that matches his character. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey and Ellie the elephant in their classroom. Show their different emotions through their body language and facial expressions.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a third character entering the room. Do not state how they are feeling; instead, describe their actions and movements so that the reader can infer their mood.