

A Day with Max the Mathematician

Learning objective: To identify and explain how an author uses adjectives and descriptive language to create a character profile.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to look for clues in the text to help you with your answers.

Max the monkey is never seen without his trusty, battered satchel. If you look closely, you will see it is stuffed with protractors, a set of compasses, and a very worn notebook filled with complex sums. Max has bright, inquisitive eyes that dart around the forest, always searching for geometric patterns in the leaves of the oak trees. While other monkeys might spend their time swinging lazily from branch to branch, Max prefers to sit perfectly still on a mossy log. He uses his long, nimble fingers to calculate the height of the canopy or the distance between the riverbank and his favorite mango tree. His fur is a soft, warm shade of mahogany, which glows golden when the sun filters through the leaves. Max is an enthusiastic friend who believes that every problem in the jungle can be solved if you have enough patience and a sharp pencil. He often pauses to help others, using his brilliant mind to work out fair shares of fruit or to measure the best path for a new trail.

Word bank: enthusiastic · geometric · calculate · scamper · precise · magnifying

1. List two items that Max keeps inside his satchel. (2 marks)

2. What does Max look for when he is observing the oak tree leaves? (2 marks)

3. How does Max's behavior differ from the other monkeys in the forest? (2 marks)

4. What do you think Max means when he says every problem can be solved with 'patience and a sharp pencil'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a helpful character? Use evidence from the text to support your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey sitting on his mossy log, surrounded by his mathematical tools and his notebook.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new character. Think about what they love to do and use at least three interesting adjectives to describe their appearance and personality.