

Grade 2 ELA Assessment: The Art of Inference

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer characters' feelings and actions using clues from a text.

Read the short story carefully. Answer the questions using evidence from the text to support your ideas. Remember, inference means 'reading between the lines' to understand what the author is telling us without saying it directly.

Max the monkey sat on the branch of the old oak tree, staring at a pile of scattered nuts. He tapped his chin with one finger and frowned, his tail twitching back and forth quickly. Below him, Leo the lion was walking slowly through the tall grass, holding a neatly folded piece of paper. When Leo looked up and saw Max, Max quickly hid the nuts behind his back and started humming a tune, looking up at the sky as if he hadn't a care in the world.

Word bank: clue · evidence · feeling · character · expression · atmosphere · implied

1. How is Max feeling when he first sees Leo? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

2. What tells you that Max is feeling nervous or guilty? Identify two physical actions mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Max starts humming and looking at the sky when Leo arrives? (3 marks)

4. Looking at the text, why might Leo be carrying a piece of paper? Give a reason for your inference. (4 marks)

5. How would you describe the relationship between Max and Leo based on their behavior in this scene? (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing what happens next. Use clues from the text to explain how Leo reacts to Max's behavior. Ensure you use descriptive language. (5 marks)

7. If Max's tail had been wagging slowly instead of twitching quickly, how might that change our understanding of his mood? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey hiding behind the oak tree branch. Make sure his facial expression shows how he is feeling based on the story.



Extension challenge: Total: /25