

The Mystery of the Missing Map: An Inference Investigation

Learning objective: To develop inference skills by analysing character actions and environmental clues to draw logical conclusions.

Finn the dolphin has lost his precious navigation map! Look at the clues below. Use your detective skills to infer what happened. For each clue, explain what it tells you about the situation, even if the text doesn't say it directly.

Word bank: evidence · clue · deduction · atmosphere · motive · observation · implication · context

1. Clue 1: Finn is swimming in circles near the jagged coral reef, and his fins are trembling. What can you infer about how Finn is feeling and why? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. Clue 2: A trail of bright, shimmering blue scales leads away from the reef towards the dark, deep-sea trench. If Finn is the only dolphin in the area with grey skin, what does this suggest about who might have been near his map? (2 marks)

3. Clue 3: The ocean current is flowing strongly from the East, yet the map—which usually floats—is nowhere to be seen on the surface. What might have happened to the map based on its physical properties? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How would Finn's behavior change if he had simply forgotten where he put the map, versus if it had been taken? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Explain why the author chose to describe the sea trench as 'dark' and 'deep'. How does this word choice influence your inference about the safety of the map? (2 marks)

6. What might happen if Finn decides to follow the trail of blue scales? Predict the outcome using evidence from the clues provided. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene at the jagged coral reef. Include Finn looking worried, the mysterious trail of blue scales, and one other 'hidden' clue in the background that might help solve the mystery.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph from the perspective of the creature who left the blue scales. Do not reveal who they are directly; use 'show, don't tell' techniques to help the reader infer their personality.