

Grade 3 ELA Assessment: The Art of Inference

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues about characters' emotions, motivations, and settings.

Read the passage carefully. Use the clues provided by the author to answer the questions. For longer answers, use evidence from the text to support your reasoning.

Max the monkey sat on the highest branch of the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed as he stared intently at a collection of fallen acorns. He held a small, weathered notebook, scribbling lines of numbers and drawing complex diagrams of the forest floor. Below him, Pip the caterpillar slowly inched along a leaf, watching Max with a gentle, patient smile. The wind whistled through the branches, causing the leaves to dance, but Max didn't even notice the chill. He tapped his pencil against his chin, muttering about 'the perfect geometric arrangement' before suddenly springing up and darting toward the riverbank with a triumphant grin.

Word bank: Inference · Evidence · Emotion · Atmosphere · Motivation · Deduction

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

2. What does Max's behavior suggest about his personality? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. Why does the author mention that Max 'didn't even notice the chill' of the wind? What does this tell us about his focus? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the moods of Max and Pip in this scene. Justify your answer using the text. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Max finds the 'perfect geometric arrangement' he is looking for? Provide a prediction based on his character. (3 marks)

6. The author describes the tree as 'ancient'. What does this tell us about the setting of the story? (2 marks)

7. If Max were to explain his discovery to Pip, what kind of language might he use? Write a short dialogue (2-3 lines) that reflects Max's personality. (3 marks)

8. Extended Writing: Write a paragraph explaining why Max is so obsessed with the acorns. What could be the purpose of his 'complex diagrams'? Ensure your answer is grounded in the clues provided in the passage. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of what you imagine Max's 'complex diagram' of the acorns looks like in his notebook. Use geometric shapes and patterns.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Imagine Pip the caterpillar decides to join Max in his research. Write a short journal entry from Pip's perspective describing why she thinks Max is so busy. Use high-level vocabulary to describe the atmosphere of the forest.