

The Detective's Desk: Mastering Inference with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by identifying clues in character actions and settings to explain how a character is feeling or what is happening.

Kit the Fox is a master detective, but he needs your help to solve these mini-mysteries. Read each scenario below. Look for the 'clues' in the text that tell you how the character is feeling, even if the text doesn't say it directly. Use the word bank to help you describe the character's state of mind, then write your evidence.

Word bank: Anxious · Relieved · Frustrated · Determined · Exhausted · Excited

1. Scenario 1: Leo the Lion sat at his desk, tapping his pencil rhythmically against his chin. He had crumpled up three sheets of paper already, and his mane was ruffled from him running his paws through it. What is Leo feeling, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: Ellie the Elephant arrived at the library, her trunk held high. She smoothed down her skirt, took a deep breath, and walked straight to the 'History of Ancient Forests' shelf with a purposeful stride. What is Ellie feeling, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

3. Scenario 3: Max the Monkey looked at the clock, then at the pile of unorganized blocks. He let out a long, shaky breath and slumped into his chair, his shoulders dropping low. What is Max feeling, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

4. Scenario 4: Zara the Zebra paced back and forth, checking her watch every ten seconds. She kept biting her lip and glancing at the front door. What is Zara feeling, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: Nova the Owl finally finished her complex star chart. She placed her quill down, leaned back, and a slow smile spread across her face as she let out a long sigh. What is Nova feeling, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Kit the Fox wearing a detective's hat. Around him, draw three 'clue' items that might suggest a character is feeling happy, such as a colorful balloon, a bright star, or a bouquet of flowers.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about a character waiting for a bus in the rain. Do not use the words 'sad' or 'cold'. Use your own clues to show the reader exactly how the character feels.