

Grade 4 ELA Assessment: The Art of Inference

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues, analysing character behavior, and drawing logical conclusions.

Read the short story below carefully. Use your detective skills to look for clues, hints, and patterns in the writing. Answer the questions in full, clear sentences.

Max the monkey sat on the highest branch of the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed as he stared intensely at his notebook. Beside him, Leo the lion paced back and forth, his tail flicking nervously from side to side. Every few minutes, Leo would stop to gaze towards the horizon, letting out a soft, low sigh that seemed to vibrate through the bark of the tree. Max didn't look up from his calculations, but he reached out and patted Leo's mane gently, pushing a small, smooth pebble towards him. Leo sat down, his shoulders relaxing, and began to arrange the pebbles into a neat, straight line.

Word bank: atmosphere · deduce · empathy · evidence · imply · perspective · subtle

1. How is Leo feeling at the start of the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

2. What does Max's action of patting Leo's mane and pushing the pebble tell us about their friendship? (2 marks)

3. Why might Max be furrowing his brow and staring at his notebook? Make an inference based on Max's known character traits. (3 marks)

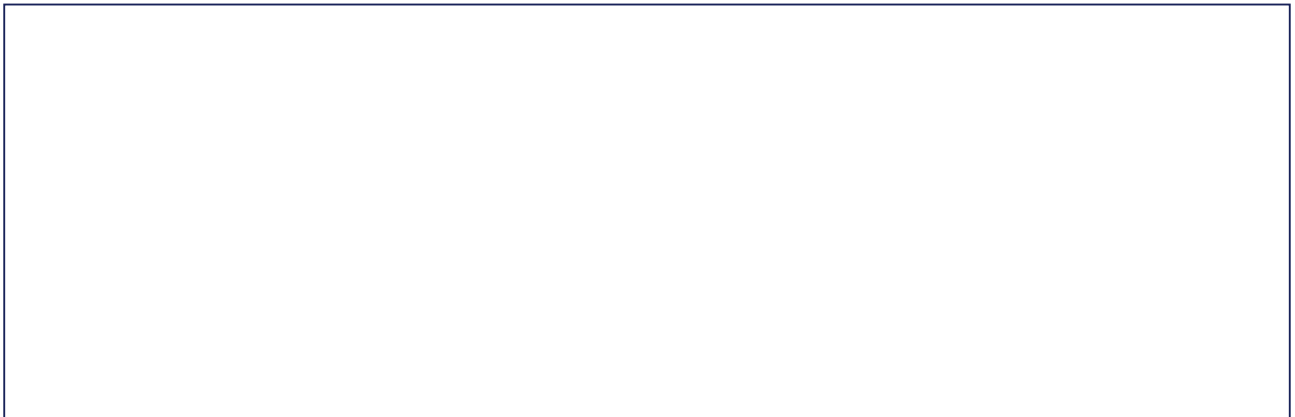
4. Explain why Leo stops pacing and begins to arrange the pebbles in a straight line. (4 marks)

5. The author does not explicitly state that Leo is worried about something in the distance. How do we know this is the case? Refer to the text in your explanation. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are a reporter witnessing this scene. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing what you think happened just before this moment that caused Leo to be so nervous. (5 marks)

7. What is the overall atmosphere of this scene? Use one word to describe it and justify your choice. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what you think Leo is looking at on the horizon, based on the clues in the story.



Extension challenge: Total: /25