

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop skills in making inferences by reading between the lines to understand a character's feelings and actions.

Read the story below carefully. Think about why the characters act the way they do, even if the text does not state it directly. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Max the monkey stood before the village market stall, his brow furrowed in deep concentration. He had exactly £5.00 in his pocket, carefully saved from doing chores. Beside him, a display of shiny red apples caught his eye, but he quickly turned his attention to a wooden box of tangled, second-hand abacuses. Max picked one up, dusted it off, and performed a rapid mental calculation. He looked at the price tag: £2.50. He glanced back at the apples, which cost £0.50 each. He sighed, looked at the abacus again, and then back at the fruit. With a determined nod, he placed the abacus back down, picked up four crisp apples, and handed the shopkeeper £2.00. He walked away, taking a large, crunchy bite of his snack. As he chewed, he pulled out his notebook and began scribbling a new pattern, his tail flicking with excitement. He hadn't bought the tool he wanted, but he had found the fuel he needed to solve his next big puzzle.

Word bank: calculation · hesitant · display · meticulously · tangled

1. How much money did Max have in his pocket at the start of the story? (1 mark)

2. What items were available for sale at the market stall? (1 mark)

3. Why did Max look at the apples after looking at the abacus? (2 marks)

4. What does Max's decision to buy the apples suggest about his priorities at that moment? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max made the right choice? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey at the market stall. Show him looking at the apples and the abacus, and try to capture the 'determined' expression mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max returns to the market next week with £3.00. Write a short paragraph describing what he might buy and why, using your own inferences about his personality.