

Detective Work: Mastering Inference with Pip

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using evidence from a text to support ideas and predictions.

Read the short story below about Pip the caterpillar. Use your detective skills to answer the questions. Remember, an inference is when you use clues from the text and your own knowledge to work out something that isn't explicitly stated.

Pip adjusted his tiny spectacles and peered at the library shelf. He had spent all morning moving from spine to spine, his little legs working hard to climb the towering wooden mountains of books. He sighed, his shoulders drooping as he looked at the empty space where his favorite poetry anthology usually sat. He checked under the rug, then peered behind the heavy, velvet curtain that blocked out the afternoon sun. Just then, he noticed a faint trail of sticky, golden honey leading towards the garden door. Pip's antennae twitched, and a determined look crossed his face as he began to crawl faster towards the sunlight.

Word bank: detective · evidence · clue · inference · prediction · character · atmosphere

1. How is Pip feeling at the start of the story? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. What is Pip looking for, and how do you know? (2 marks)

3. Based on the text, what might be happening in the garden? Why might someone have left honey behind? (3 marks)

4. Why does Pip's expression change from 'shoulders drooping' to 'determined'? What does this tell us about his personality? (3 marks)

5. If the story were to continue, what do you predict Pip will find when he reaches the garden? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar searching for his book. Include the 'clues' mentioned in the text, such as the velvet curtain or the trail of honey.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what you think happened to Pip's book before he arrived at the library shelf. Use at least two pieces of evidence from the story to support your theory.