

Max's Magnificent Market Math and Mystery

Learning objective: To develop retrieval, inference, and analytical reading skills through a literary text, meeting Grade 4 ELA requirements.

Read the short story below carefully. Answer the questions that follow, ensuring you use evidence from the text to support your points.

Max the monkey stood at the center of the Whispering Woods Market. His tail twitched with excitement as he surveyed the stalls. He was not there to buy bananas; he was searching for the fabled Silver Cog, a missing piece from his latest mechanical invention. 'Excuse me,' Max asked a badger merchant, 'have you seen a small, metallic circle with twelve teeth?' The badger grunted, 'I sold a trinket like that to a magpie for £4.50 this morning. She flew towards the Tallest Oak.' Max thanked him, noting the meticulous way the badger arranged his acorn baskets. He knew that to solve this puzzle, he would need to track the magpie before the sun dipped behind the horizon. He calculated the distance to the oak—roughly three hundred metres—and tightened his shoelaces. The adventure was only just beginning.

Word bank: bustling · barter · merchandise · inquisitive · flourish · meticulous

1. 1. Why was Max at the market? A) To buy fruit B) To find a missing machine part* C) To visit the badger D) To sell his inventions (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Max was interested in buying bananas. (1 mark)

3. 3. How much did the badger sell the Silver Cog for? (Write the price in £). (1 mark)

4. 4. Which word best describes the badger's behavior? A) Chaotic B) Meticulous* C) Aggressive D) Lazy (1 mark)

5. 5. What evidence in the text suggests Max is a logical thinker? (1 mark)

6. 6. Where did the magpie fly? (One word answer) (1 mark)

7. 7. Explain why Max felt it was urgent to find the magpie before sunset. (1 mark)

8. 8. Compare and contrast Max's motivation with the badger's motivation in the passage. (1 mark)

9. 9. What might happen if Max arrives at the Tallest Oak after the sun has set? Justify your prediction. (1 mark)

10. 10. In your own words, describe the atmosphere of the Whispering Woods Market. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a detailed map of the Whispering Woods Market showing Max, the badger's stall, and the path leading to the Tallest Oak.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) describing what Max discovers when he reaches the Tallest Oak. Use at least three words from the word bank in your response and justify why the magpie might have wanted the Silver Cog.