The Mechanics of a Mystery: Illustrating an Explanation Text

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate the structural features of an explanation text by visualising the 'How-To' process of a mechanical invention.

Max the monkey has invented a new machine to help gather forest fruit. Use your knowledge of explanation texts to draw the internal workings of the 'Fruit-Picker 3000'. Label the components clearly and ensure your diagram follows a logical, sequential process.

Draw: Draw a cross-section of Max the monkey's 'Fruit-Picker 3000'. The style should be a technical blueprint or engineering sketch (neat lines, clean layout). Include the following: a main energy source (like a spring or a solar panel), a mechanical arm with a grasping claw, and a collection chute. Add call-out boxes to label these parts using technical vocabulary.

Label words: Introduction · Technical vocabulary · Chronological order · Diagram · Causal link · Caption · Mechanism · Component

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important for an explanation text to be written in chronological order. Justify your answer with an example.

2. Compare and contrast the function of a diagram in an explanation text versus the function of the main

body text.

3. Label your drawing with at least three technical terms that a reader would need to understand how the 'Fruit-Picker 3000' functions.

4. What might happen if an explanation text omitted the introduction? Explain the impact this would have on the reader.

5. Identify one causal conjunction from the word bank and write a sentence explaining how the machine activates.

6. Justify why technical vocabulary is necessary when describing a complex machine to an audience who has never seen it before.