

Year 6 English Assessment: Mastering Inference

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning, character motives, and atmosphere from a literary text.

Read the passage carefully. Use evidence from the text to support your answers. Remember to use full sentences for extended responses.

Max the monkey sat atop the highest branch of the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed in deep concentration. Below him, the forest floor was a chaotic tapestry of discarded map fragments and half-chewed pens. He tapped his chin, his tail twitching rhythmically against the bark. A soft rustle in the leaves made him freeze. Without looking down, Max quickly pulled a tattered scrap of paper over his complex equations, shielding them from view. He took a long, steadying breath, his grip tightening on his pencil. 'It is almost time,' he whispered to the wind, his eyes darting toward the horizon where the sun was beginning to dip below the canopy. He didn't want the others to discover his secret calculations just yet; not until every variable was perfectly balanced.

Word bank: atmosphere · motive · evidence · subtle · implication · deduction · perspective

1. How is Max feeling at the start of the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Why does Max hide his papers when he hears a rustle in the leaves? What does this suggest about his personality? (3 marks)

3. What can you infer about Max's relationship with 'the others'? Use specific clues from the text. (4 marks)

4. Identify one phrase that suggests the passage is set towards the end of the day. Explain how this adds to the mood of the story. (3 marks)

5. Explain why the author describes the forest floor as a 'chaotic tapestry'. What does this imply about how Max has been working? (3 marks)

6. Creative Writing Task: Imagine what Max is working on. Write a short paragraph (approx. 50-75 words) describing the 'secret calculations'. Use inference to explain why this project is so important to him. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of Max's secret workspace on the oak tree branch, including the items mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: If you were one of Max's friends, what might you think if you found his hidden papers? Write a short diary entry from your perspective.