

Inference Detectives with Max and Kit

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues and using background knowledge.

Read the short story below, then answer the 10 questions to test your detective skills. Remember, inference means reading between the lines!

Max the monkey sat at his wooden desk, tapping his pencil against his chin. His brow was furrowed, and a stack of crumpled paper surrounded him. Across the room, Kit the fox was staring intently at a computer screen, his tail twitching rhythmically. Kit adjusted his glasses, let out a soft huff of frustration, and pushed his chair back with a loud screech. 'Still nothing?' Max asked, his voice barely a whisper. Kit didn't look up, but his ears drooped lower against his head. He simply pointed to the empty screen. Outside, the sky was a deep, bruised purple, and the first heavy droplets of rain began to drum against the windowpane.

Word bank: Inference · Evidence · Clue · Deduction · Atmosphere · Intention

1. 1. How is Max feeling while working at his desk? A) Excited B) Frustrated C) Hungry D) Bored. (Answer: B*) (1 mark)

2. 2. What evidence in the text suggests Max is having a difficult time? (1 word) (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: Kit is happy with the progress of his work. (1 mark)

4. 4. What does the 'screech' of Kit's chair imply about his mood? A) He is being playful B) He is startled C) He is annoyed D) He is singing. (Answer: C*) (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the weather like outside? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. Why might Max be whispering? A) It is a library B) He doesn't want to disturb Kit C) He has a sore throat D) He is hiding. (Answer: B*) (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: The story takes place in the middle of a sunny morning. (1 mark)

8. 8. What physical clue shows that Kit is feeling discouraged? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. Which word best describes the atmosphere of the room? A) Chaotic B) Joyful C) Tense D) Peaceful. (Answer: C*) (1 mark)

10. 10. What does the 'bruised purple' sky suggest about the upcoming weather? (1 word) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max and Kit in their workspace, showing the expressions they have in the story. Make sure the room looks like a place where two clever friends are trying to solve a very tricky puzzle.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what you think Max and Kit are trying to solve. Use at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your idea.