

Detective Work: Mastering Inference with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using textual evidence and prior knowledge to read 'between the lines'.

Read each scenario carefully. Use the clues provided to make a logical inference about what is happening, why a character feels a certain way, or what might happen next. Remember: an inference is not stated directly in the text; you must act like a detective to find the answer.

Max the monkey sat in his treehouse, frantically checking his calculator and tapping his chin. He had three different shopping lists laid out on his desk. Pip the caterpillar crawled over, looked at the lists, and noticed that every item was priced in pence, yet Max kept scribbling '£1.00' next to the total. Max suddenly stood up, grabbed his coat, and checked the weather outside. He sighed, looking at the grey, swirling clouds, and pulled a thick, waterproof yellow jacket from his cupboard instead of his usual sun hat.

Word bank: evidence · clue · deduce · prediction · implicit · context · observation

1. Why did Max choose a waterproof jacket instead of his sun hat? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

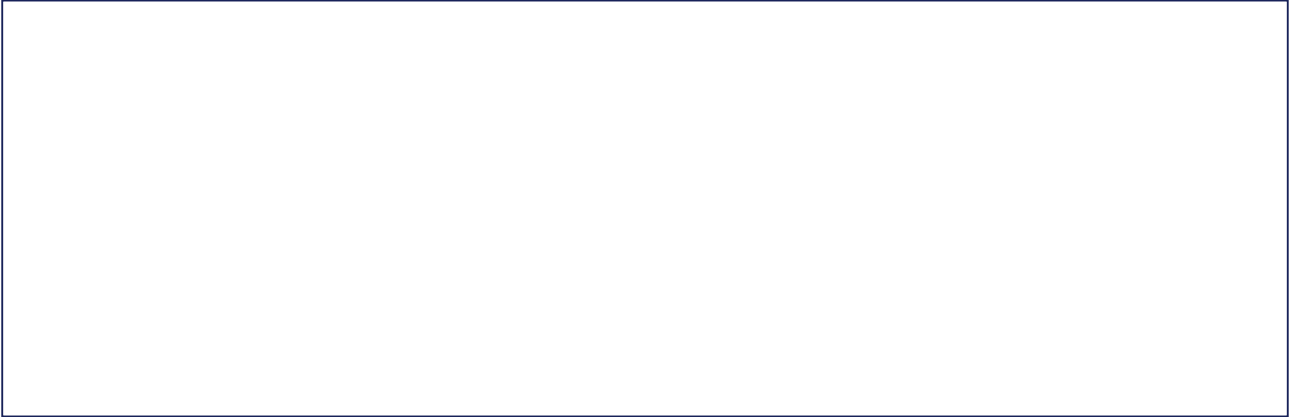
2. What does Max's behaviour with his shopping lists suggest about his current task? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. Why might Max be scribbling '£1.00' next to his totals? What does this imply about his budget or the items he is buying? (2 marks)

4. What can you infer about the relationship between Max and Pip based on how they interact in this scene? (2 marks)

5. Based on the evidence provided, what is the most likely destination for Max? Give one reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max the monkey preparing for his trip. Include three specific clues in your drawing that suggest he is going to a market to buy supplies on a rainy day.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a new character entering the room. Use at least two clues that show the character is feeling nervous without explicitly using the word 'nervous'.