Max’s Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop retrieval and inference skills by analysing a narrative text.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you provide evidence from the text to support your answers.

Max the monkey stood at the edge of the bustling town market, his notebook clutched tightly in his paw. To anyone else, the market was simply a noisy place to buy groceries, but to Max, it was a giant maths puzzle waiting to be solved. He watched as the greengrocer arranged piles of gala apples. Max noted that there were exactly forty-eight apples in a pyramid. If each apple cost 25p, he calculated the total value of the display in seconds. He moved to the bakery stall, where the scent of warm crusty bread hung in the air. The baker was offering a 'three for £2.00' deal on savoury rolls. Max frowned, scribbling furiously; he knew that if he bought six rolls, he would save money compared to buying them individually at 80p each. The market was a symphony of numbers, and Max felt a thrill of excitement. He wasn't just observing; he was finding the perfect balance between value and quantity. With a satisfied nod, he tucked his pencil behind his ear, ready to help his friends make the most of their pocket money.

Word bank: meticulous · calculation · abundance · stalls · negotiate

1. How many apples were displayed in the pyramid at the greengrocer’s stall? (1 mark)

2. How much would six rolls cost if bought individually at 80p each? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max feel that the market is a 'symphony of numbers'? (2 marks)

4. What can you infer about Max’s personality based on his behaviour in the market? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys his visits to the market? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing in the middle of a busy market, holding his notebook and pencil, surrounded by stalls of colourful fruit and bread.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are at the market with Max. Write a short paragraph explaining a real-life maths problem you might encounter while shopping for ingredients for a school picnic.