

Max's Analytical Adventure

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns, synonyms, and logical relationships within a text.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Pay close attention to how words relate to one another.

Max the monkey sat under the canopy of the Great Oak, surrounded by piles of wooden blocks. To Max, the world was a giant puzzle waiting to be decoded. He picked up a block labelled 'Swift' and placed it next to 'Fast'. He knew these were synonyms—words that shared a similar essence. Next, he examined a set of number patterns that danced across his notepad. He was practising verbal reasoning, a skill that helped him untangle complex thoughts. Suddenly, Nova the owl swooped down, clutching a scrap of parchment. 'If a feather is to a bird as a scale is to a fish, what does that imply about their coverings?' Nova asked. Max tapped his chin. He realised that analogies were like bridges, connecting two distinct ideas through a shared relationship. He understood that reasoning wasn't just about finding the right answer; it was about the logic used to arrive there. Max smiled, realising that whether he was solving a linguistic riddle or a mathematical sequence, the process of careful observation remained his most powerful tool in the forest.

Word bank: Analogy · Synonym · Logical · Deduce · Categorise · Ambiguous

1. Identify two words from the text that are synonyms for one another. (2 marks)

2. What specific tools or items does Max use to help him practise his reasoning skills? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Max considers analogies to be like 'bridges'. (3 marks)

4. What does the text suggest about Max's personality in relation to his approach to learning? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that logic is more important than the final answer when solving a puzzle? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey surrounded by his reasoning puzzles, including a visual representation of Nova's 'feather to bird' analogy.



Extension challenge: Create your own analogy puzzle using two pairs of words. Then, explain the logical relationship between your chosen pairs and write a short paragraph describing a situation where a human might need to use verbal reasoning in their daily life.