

Max's Mathematical Mystery: A Verbal Reasoning Challenge

Learning objective: To develop logical thinking and linguistic precision by constructing a verbal reasoning narrative based on pattern recognition and deduction.

Max the monkey has found a series of locked treasure chests in the forest. To open them, he must solve a verbal puzzle. Use the prompts below to write your own 'Logic Mystery'. Focus on clear explanations and precise vocabulary to guide the reader through your deduction process.

Max stared at the three golden chests, each inscribed with a cryptic clue that seemed to defy common sense.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · subsequently · however · in contrast · therefore · because · deduce · pattern · logical · reveals · implies

1. The Setup: Describe the three chests and the strange clue found on the first one. Begin with: 'The first chest was adorned with intricate carvings, and the clue stated...' (2 marks)

2. Logical Deduction: Explain the process Max uses to eliminate one of the possibilities. Use: 'Max considered the evidence and realised that...' (3 marks)

3. The Twist: What unexpected problem arises when Max thinks he has solved the puzzle? Begin with: 'Just as Max reached for the handle, he noticed a subtle pattern that suggested...' (3 marks)

4. The Resolution: Describe how Max uses his reasoning skills to open the correct chest. Include: 'By applying his knowledge of patterns, he concluded that...' (3 marks)

5. Justification: Explain why Max's final decision was the only logical outcome. Start: 'The evidence confirms this was the correct choice because...' (4 marks)

6. Reflection: Compare and contrast Max's methodical approach with a more impulsive character. 'In contrast to a character who rushes in, Max's method ensures...' (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine the treasure inside the chest is not gold, but a collection of rare, ancient books. Write a paragraph justifying why Max believes these books are worth more than the £1,000 offered by the forest traders. What might happen if the books contained a map to a hidden library?