

Character Description: Meeting Max the Math Monkey

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to describe a character's appearance and personality.

Read the passage about Max and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and check your spellings.

Max the monkey is far from your average jungle resident. While others spend their days swinging lazily through the canopy, Max is always found with a charcoal pencil behind his ear and a small, leather-bound notebook tucked under his arm. He has a coat of soft, mahogany-colored fur that glows with a healthy sheen in the morning sunlight. His eyes, a pair of bright, amber circles, dart quickly across the forest floor, constantly counting fallen leaves or measuring the distance between branches. Max wears a tiny, knitted waistcoat with deep pockets, which he fills with smooth pebbles and interesting twigs he finds during his calculations. He is a logical thinker with an energetic spirit; he never sees a problem, only a puzzle waiting to be solved with a bit of quick thinking and some impressive mental math.

Word bank: meticulous · inquisitive · vibrant · energetic · logical · determined · calculate · observant

1. Find and copy one expanded noun phrase from the text used to describe Max's appearance. (1 mark)

2. Why does Max carry a charcoal pencil and a notebook? Use evidence from the text to explain. (2 marks)

3. How does the author show that Max is an observant character? Give an example. (2 marks)

4. The text describes Max as having a 'mahogany-colored coat'. What does this tell you about how he looks? (1 mark)

5. In your own words, describe how Max's personality is different from the other jungle animals mentioned. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey in his natural habitat. Make sure to include his knitted waistcoat, his notebook, and his pencil behind his ear as described in the text.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max meets a new friend. Write three sentences describing what this new character looks like, using at least two adjectives and one expanded noun phrase for each sentence.