Mastering Verbal Reasoning: The Logic Detective

Learning objective: To develop logical thinking and linguistic patterns by constructing a coherent argument based on verbal reasoning clues.

Use this frame to help Max the monkey solve a mystery. Read the opening passage, then follow the prompts to build your own logical story, ensuring your reasons follow the clues provided.

Max the monkey stared at the three locked boxes in the jungle clearing, knowing that only one contained the golden banana key.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · however · this suggests that · in addition to · therefore · on the contrary · because

1. The First Clue: Describe the first box and explain why it might be the wrong one using a logical deduction. Start with: 'The first box was decorated with silver vines, but I suspected it was incorrect because...' (2 marks)

2. The Second Clue: Introduce a pattern or word puzzle found on the second box. Start with: 'Upon closer inspection, the second box featured a sequence of letters: A, C, E, G. This pattern indicates that...' (2 marks)

3. The Third Clue: Explain how the final box differs from the others. Start with: 'In contrast to the others, the third box felt lighter and had a peculiar inscription. This leads me to conclude that...' (2 marks)

4. The Deduction: Summarise your final decision. Start with: 'Therefore, based on the evidence collected, the key must be hidden inside...' (2 marks)

5. Reflection: Why is logical reasoning important when solving puzzles? Start with: 'Logical reasoning is essential because it allows a problem-solver to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Create your own verbal reasoning puzzle involving a word analogy (e.g., 'Apple is to Fruit as Carrot is to...') and challenge a partner to solve it.