A Day with Max the Mathematician

Learning objective: To identify and explain how an author uses adjectives and verbs to describe a character's personality and appearance.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Max is an energetic monkey who sees the world as one giant puzzle. With his bright, amber fur and a tail that often curls into the shape of a question mark, he is always ready for an adventure. Max never walks anywhere; he prefers to swing gracefully from branch to branch, counting the leaves as he goes. He wears a small, striped waistcoat with deep pockets filled with measuring tapes, a magnifying glass, and a notebook for his sums. While other animals might just look at a honeycomb, Max examines the perfect hexagonal patterns and tries to calculate how many bees worked together to build it. He has a habit of tapping his chin when he is thinking hard, his dark eyes twinkling with excitement. Max is a loyal friend who loves to help others solve tricky problems using his quick mind. Whether he is sorting acorns by size or measuring the height of the oak trees, Max finds joy in every number he discovers. To him, the forest is not just a home; it is a marvellous math classroom waiting to be explored.

Word bank: enthusiastic · pattern · geometry · tangled · curious · calculate · energetic

1. What are two items that Max keeps in the pockets of his waistcoat? (2 marks)

2. How does Max choose to travel through the forest? (2 marks)

3. Why does Max tap his chin when he is looking at the beehive? (3 marks)

4. What does the author mean by saying Max sees the forest as a 'math classroom'? (3 marks)

5. Do you think Max would be a good friend to have on a school trip? Explain your reason. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey in the forest, showing his striped waistcoat, his curled tail, and one of the items he carries in his pocket.

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new friend for Max. Think of an animal and give them a special hobby or interest, just like Max has.