

Detective Work with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To develop inference skills by reading between the lines to understand character feelings and motives.

Read the short story about Kit the Fox below. Use clues from the text to answer the questions. Remember, an inference is when you use what you already know plus the clues in the text to work out something that isn't directly stated.

Kit the Fox sat in the centre of the library, his tail twitching back and forth. He stared at the empty shelf where the Book of Ancient Maps usually stood. His paws were stained with a tiny smudge of blue ink, and his ears flattened against his head as he looked at the open window. A soft breeze ruffled the pages of a nearby dictionary, but Kit didn't look up. He picked up his magnifying glass and began to pace the floor, muttering to himself about footprints and muddy patches near the garden gate. When he heard a rustle in the bushes, he froze, his whiskers shivering, before letting out a long, shaky breath and adjusting his glasses.

Word bank: anxious · determined · clue · motive · evidence · frustrated · relieved

1. How is Kit feeling at the start of the story? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. What do you think Kit is trying to do? Explain why you think this. (2 marks)

3. What does the 'smudge of blue ink' on Kit's paws suggest about what he has been doing? (2 marks)

4. Why does Kit freeze when he hears a rustle in the bushes? (2 marks)

5. Is Kit a calm character or a restless character? Give one reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw what you think Kit the Fox saw when he looked out of the window, based on the clues he found in the garden.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what Kit might say to the person or animal he finds in the bushes. Use your inference skills to decide if he is angry, curious, or kind.