

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop inference skills by using clues from the text to understand a character's feelings and actions.

Read the short story below carefully. Think about what the author is showing you through Max's actions and how he speaks. Answer the questions using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Max the monkey stood in front of the market stall, his tail twitching back and forth. He looked at the price tag for a bunch of bananas: £2.50. He checked his small, woven basket, counting his coins for the third time. He had a £1 coin, two 50p coins, and four 10p coins. He tapped his chin, his eyes darting between the fruit and his palm. A line of shoppers was beginning to form behind him. He took a deep breath, clutching his coins tightly, and slowly stepped forward to the counter, but then he quickly darted back to the end of the queue. He started counting his coins one more time, his brow furrowed in deep concentration.

Word bank: anxious · enthusiastic · estimate · calculation · hesitated

1. How is Max feeling while he waits in the queue? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. What is Max trying to figure out? Why does he keep counting his coins? (2 marks)

3. Why does Max step forward to the counter and then suddenly dart back to the end of the queue? (2 marks)

4. Does Max have enough money to buy the bananas? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

5. What do the words 'his tail twitching' suggest about Max's mood? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max at the market stall. Include details in your drawing that show he is feeling nervous or focused, such as his expression or the way he is holding his coins.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what you think Max will do next. Will he ask the shopkeeper for help, or will he find a way to pay? Use clues from the story to justify your prediction.