

# Detective Work with Ellie the Elephant

*Learning objective: To make inferences from a text by using evidence and clues provided by the author.*

Read the story about Ellie the Elephant below. Look for clues that tell you how she is feeling or what is happening, even if the text doesn't say it directly. Then, complete the drawing task to show what you have inferred.

Ellie the Elephant stood by the riverbank, her trunk tucked neatly behind her back. She kept checking the position of the sun, glancing up at the sky every few minutes. Her ears were flattened against her head, and she shifted her weight from one heavy foot to the other. When a bright butterfly fluttered past, she didn't even notice, instead focusing intently on the narrow woodland path. She let out a long, slow sigh and adjusted the colourful ribbon tied around her ear for the third time.

*Word bank: inference · clues · evidence · emotions · atmosphere · deduce*

**1. How is Ellie feeling in this passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)**

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**2. What do you think Ellie is waiting for? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)**

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**3. Find a piece of evidence in the text that suggests Ellie is trying to look her best. (1 mark)**

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**4. Why might Ellie be checking the position of the sun? (2 marks)**

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**5. Does the text say Ellie is nervous? How can you tell she might be feeling this way? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of what you think Ellie sees when she finally looks down the path. Think about what or who she is waiting for and include details that show her reaction.



*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing what happens next, using at least one clue from the text to explain how Ellie reacts when her visitor finally arrives.*