

Detective Work: Mastering Inference

Learning objective: To be able to make inferences by using clues from the text and our own knowledge to understand what is not explicitly stated.

Read the short story below featuring Pip the bookworm. Look closely at the clues hidden in the text to answer the questions. Remember, an inference is like being a detective—you have to read between the lines!

Pip the caterpillar sat by the window, clutching a thick, dusty book. Outside, the sky was a deep shade of slate grey, and heavy droplets began to tap rhythmically against the glass. Pip sighed, pulled a tiny, knitted woollen jumper closer around his middle, and tucked his feet under a soft cushion. He glanced at the empty tea cup on his desk and reached for a nearby blanket to wrap around his shoulders.

Word bank: Clue · Evidence · Deduce · Between the lines · Imply · Atmosphere

1. What is the weather like outside? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. How is Pip likely feeling in terms of his physical comfort? Explain why you think this. (2 marks)

3. What time of day might it be, and what suggests this? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think Pip reached for a blanket? What does this action tell you about the room? (2 marks)

5. Look at the phrase 'clutching a thick, dusty book'. What does this tell us about Pip's personality? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip's reading nook. Include three items that show it is a cold, rainy day, even if the text doesn't mention them directly.



Extension challenge: Write two sentences describing a character who is feeling very excited. Do not use the words 'happy', 'excited', or 'jump'. Use inference clues about their actions and body language instead.