

## Detective Work: The Mystery at the Library

*Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using clues from the text to understand characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions.*

Read the short story below. Think about what the characters are doing and why. Use evidence from the text to answer the questions in full sentences.

Pip the caterpillar sat on a stack of dusty books, his magnifying glass held tightly in his tiny hand. He kept glancing toward the heavy oak door every few seconds, his antennae twitching nervously. Suddenly, a soft thud echoed from the hallway. Pip jumped, knocking a bottle of ink over, and quickly hid behind a large dictionary. Outside, Max the monkey poked his head around the doorframe. He was holding a crumpled piece of paper and looking at the ceiling, scratching his head as if he were trying to solve a very difficult sum. He sighed loudly, 'I know the answer is hidden here somewhere, but these numbers just won't add up!' Pip peeked out from behind the book, his shoulders relaxing as he let out a long breath.

*Word bank: anxious · curious · atmosphere · evidence · clue · muttered*

**1. How is Pip feeling at the beginning of the story? Give one piece of evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)**

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**2. What does Max the monkey enjoy doing in his spare time? Explain how you know this. (2 marks)**

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**3. Why did Pip hide behind the dictionary when he heard the thud? (2 marks)**

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**4. What does the author mean by the phrase 'his shoulders relaxing'? What does this tell us about Pip's mood? (2 marks)**

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5. Based on the text, do you think Pip and Max are friends? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of what Max might be looking at on the ceiling that makes him think it is a maths puzzle.



*Extension challenge: Write two sentences describing what might happen next when Pip finally comes out from behind the dictionary to talk to Max.*