

Detective Work with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by making inferences based on evidence from the text.

Read the story about Pip's morning in the library. Use the clues in the text to answer the questions. Remember, an inference is when you use what you already know plus clues from the text to work out something the author hasn't explicitly told you.

Pip the bookworm adjusted his tiny spectacles and wiggled his antennae. The library was unusually quiet, even for a Tuesday morning. Pip noticed that the dust motes were dancing in a single shaft of sunlight near the back window, but the usual rustle of turning pages was missing. He looked at the floor and saw a trail of damp, muddy boot prints leading toward the Biography section. A pile of encyclopaedias lay in a messy heap, and a half-eaten apple sat abandoned on the bottom shelf. Pip sighed, picked up his magnifying glass, and began to follow the muddy trail.

Word bank: detective · evidence · inference · clue · atmosphere · observe

1. How is Pip feeling about the state of the library? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

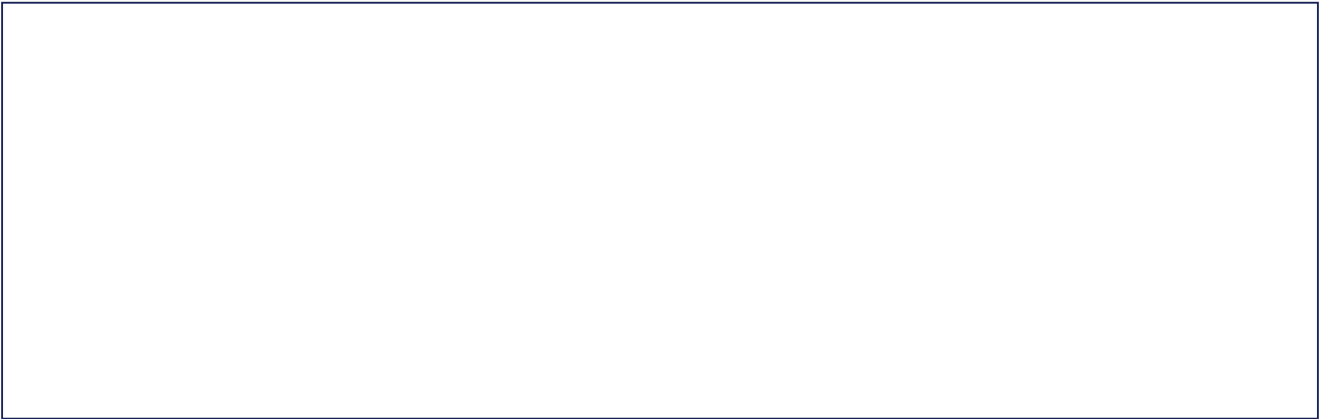
2. What time of day do you think it is in the story? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. Look at the description of the library. What has likely happened before Pip arrived? (2 marks)

4. Why does the author mention that the library is 'unusually quiet'? (2 marks)

5. Based on the evidence of the apple and the muddy boots, what kind of person might have been in the library? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw what you imagine the scene looks like inside the library, focusing on the clues Pip has found.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph predicting what Pip will find when he reaches the end of the muddy trail. Use at least two clues from the text to justify your prediction.