

# Detective Work: Mastering Inference with Pip the Bookworm

*Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues and using prior knowledge.*

Read the short story below. Use your detective skills to find the hidden clues that tell you how the character is feeling and what is happening, even when the text doesn't say it directly. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Pip the bookworm sat at his desk, his tiny legs curled tightly beneath him. He stared at the blank page in front of him, his pencil hovering in the air for a long time. Every few seconds, he let out a heavy sigh and ruffled his antennae. Outside, the sun was setting, casting long, orange shadows across his library floor. Pip glanced at the clock on the wall; it had moved forward an hour, but his page remained completely empty. He closed his book with a soft thud and pushed it away.

*Word bank: Clue · Evidence · Inference · Feeling · Atmosphere · Implied · Hidden meaning · Deduction · Character trait · Observation*

**1. How is Pip feeling about his writing task? Use evidence from the text to support your inference. (2 marks)**

---

---

**2. What time of day is it? How do you know? (2 marks)**

---

---

**3. What does Pip's action of 'closing his book with a soft thud' suggest about his mood? (2 marks)**

---

---

**4. Why do you think Pip's page is still blank after an hour? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)**

---

---

---

5. If Pip were a character in a story, would you describe him as patient or frustrated? Why? (2 marks)

---

---

**Draw:** Draw a picture of Pip's desk at the moment described in the story. Include at least two details that show how he is feeling.



*Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what might have happened ten minutes after the story ends. Use at least two clues from the passage to justify your prediction.*