

Paragraphs with Max the Maths-Monkey

Learning objective: To understand how to organise a piece of writing into paragraphs to group related ideas.

Read the story about Max below. Notice how the text is divided into three sections. Each paragraph focuses on a different idea. After reading, answer the questions to show how well you understand the structure of the story.

Max the monkey sat in the highest branch of the baobab tree, carefully counting the yellow mangoes ripening in the sun. He loved maths and spent his mornings calculating how many days it would take for the fruit to be perfectly sweet. He kept a tiny notebook where he wrote down all his sums.

After his morning counting, Max decided to visit his friend Pip the caterpillar. Pip lived in a cosy leaf house near the riverbank. Max brought a special gift of three shiny pebbles he had found. He wanted to show Pip how to arrange them into a perfect triangle shape to practise geometry.

By the time the sun began to set, Max felt very proud of his hard work. He had finished his counting tasks and spent quality time with his best friend. He climbed back to his favourite branch, feeling ready for a good night's sleep before starting a new set of puzzles tomorrow.

Word bank: Paragraph · Topic · Structure · Organise · Related · Theme

1. The story is split into three paragraphs. What is the main topic of the first paragraph? (2 marks)

2. Why do you think the author started a new paragraph when Max went to visit Pip? (2 marks)

3. How does the final paragraph show that the day has come to an end? (2 marks)

4. If Max decided to bake a cake in a new paragraph, would that fit into the third paragraph? Explain why or why not. (2 marks)

5. Give a short, snappy title for each of the three paragraphs. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max in his tree. Add a speech bubble showing one of his maths puzzles, and draw a small signpost nearby with three arrows, each labelled with a topic from the story (e.g., 'Counting Mangoes', 'Visiting Pip', 'Evening Rest').



Extension challenge: Imagine Max meets a new friend, Ellie the elephant. Write a new paragraph to add to the story that describes Max and Ellie working together to solve a maths puzzle. Remember to keep the focus on this one new idea.