

Year 5

Jam Session 1

Inference 2d

“Aren’t you a little old to be playing make-believe?”

I, myself, had given up on play-acting when I was nine. It was kids’ stuff, and I didn’t feel very much like a kid anymore. My mother, however, seemed to have absorbed everything about childhood that I’d left behind. Now she was dancing around the living room with the handle of a dust mop in her hand, held at an angle like a rock star’s microphone, singing.

When I said that, though, she stopped.

“Hey, Monica, you like movies, right? Some people make a living out of playing make-believe.”

She wasn’t wrong. I did like movies, and actors did make a living dressing up and pretending they were someone else. The fact that Mum was right annoyed me. I didn’t say anything but picked up a stack of magazines that was on the kitchen floor and put it on the table.

“Thanks, honey. I don’t think this dust mop could handle those.” Mum hummed a few lines of the music she had on.

I liked rock best and she liked musicals. But today was West Side Story, which I loved. I’d caught my mother in the middle of a very animated version of the song “Maria”.

“Also, Monica, we’re going blueberry picking after I finish the kitchen,” Mum said, without looking up from her pile of dust, which she was now sweeping into the dustpan.

“We’re WHAT?” I had just finished putting all of the books on my bedroom floor back on my bookshelves. Plus, I’d made my bed and changed my hamster’s water and food bowls. I was tired.

“What am I? A servant?”

“Far from it. You’re a lucky eleven-year-old girl who gets to be responsible for her very own bedroom in a safe house, in a safe neighbourhood, in a free country. And you have the summer off, and a Mum who is really good at making blueberry jam but needs another set of hands.”

I was about to protest, but she interrupted. “And you have full use of those hands--so be thankful for that. You are far, far from oppressed, my friend.”

Mum dumped a pan of crumbs and dust into the trash. I stared at her. She was pretty awesome, most days. I really did love her. Still...dancing in the kitchen, pretending to be a star? Blueberry picking? She was known to sing out loud a lot. The berry-picking thing was new.

“Why don’t we just go to the store?” I asked.

Mum threw a rag at me, and I automatically started wiping down the counters. “Because, number one, the berries there are shipped in from across the country, and they don’t taste as fresh or as flavourful as the ones we can pick ourselves. And number two...” she paused to slam a drawer full of silverware shut, which just about broke my eardrums with clashing forks, “...it’s fun.”

Questions

1 Which character is speaking in the very first line of the text?

Give **one** piece of evidence to show how you know this.

2 Read the text from '*I, myself, had given up on play-acting when I was nine*' to '*I didn't say anything but picked up a stack of magazines that was on the kitchen floor and put it on the table.*'

Tick **two** statements that are true about Monica.

Tick **two**.

Monica feels grown-up.

Monica is not a child.

Monica likes her mum's dancing.

Monica thinks her mum acts like a child.

Monica preferred reading to watching films.

3 Read from "*Also, Monica, we're going blueberry picking after I finish the kitchen,*" Mum said.'

How can you tell that Monica does not want to go blueberry picking?

Give **three** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4 Draw **three** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.

Monica

Mum

energetic

worn-out

cheerful

5 Think about the whole text.

What **impression** do you get of Mum and her personality?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. _____

2. _____

Answers

1 Which character is speaking in the very first line of the text?

Monica.

Give **one** piece of evidence to show how you know this.

She says, 'I, myself, had given up on play acting when I was nine.' This shows it is a child/the daughter/Monica speaking and not Mum.

She talks about her mother absorbing everything about her childhood. This means it must be the daughter speaking.

It says, 'Mother, however, seemed to have absorbed everything about childhood that I'd left behind.' This shows it's the daughter/Monica speaking and not Mum.

2 Read the text from 'I, myself, had given up on play-acting when I was nine' to 'I didn't say anything but picked up a stack of magazines that was on the kitchen floor and put it on the table.'

Tick **two** statements that are true about Monica.

Tick **two**.



Monica feels grown-up.



Monica is not a child.



Monica likes her mum's dancing.



Monica thinks her mum acts like a child.



Monica preferred reading to watching films.

3 Read from "Also, Monica, we're going blueberry picking after I finish the kitchen," Mum said.'

How can you tell that Monica does not want to go blueberry picking?

Give **three** ways.

Any three of the following (or similar) which may include an explanation:

She says, "We're WHAT?" (which shows she is surprised/shocked).

She says, "What am I? A servant?" (which shows she thinks it will be hard work/not fun/boring/a chore).

She says that she was tired.

She says, "I was tired."

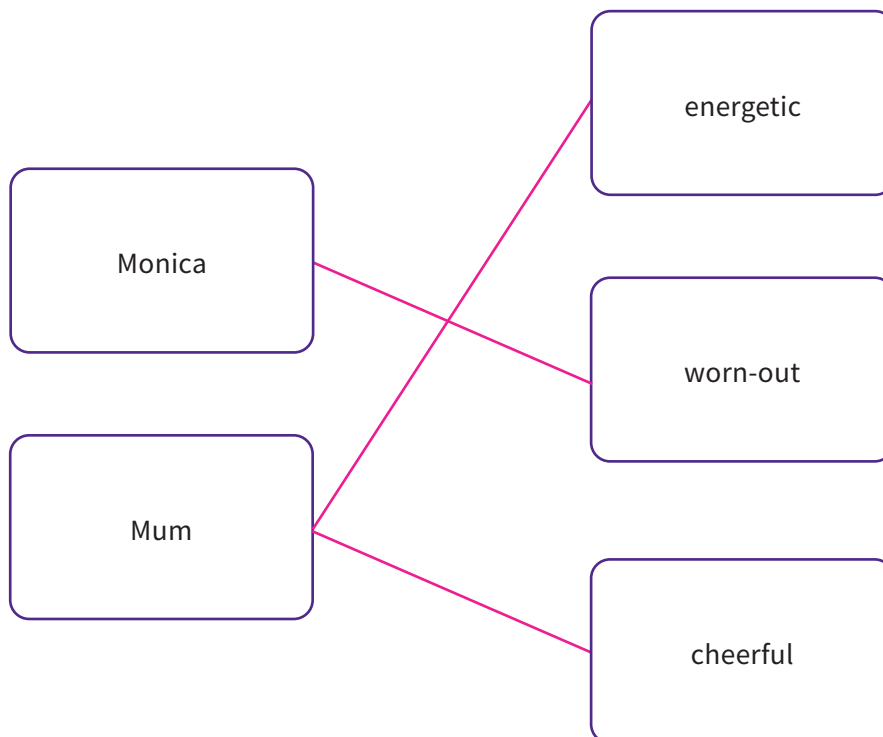
She says, "Blueberry picking? She was known to sing out loud a lot. The berry-picking thing was new."

She says, "Why don't we just go to the store?"

She thinks going to the store would be easier/less boring.

4

Draw **three** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.



5

Think about the whole text.

What **impression** do you get of Mum and her personality?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Any two of the following (or similar) with a relevant quote or paraphrased quote:

Enthusiastic – she gave lots of reasons why Monica should go blueberry picking and says it will be fun.

Persuasive – she tells Monica how lucky she is by giving lots of reasons why she should go blueberry picking.

Confident – she says she is really good at making blueberry jam (or the relevant quote). She like to sing out loud a lot.

Fun – she likes to sing and dance in the kitchen (or followed by a quote: She was ‘dancing around the living room with the handle of a dust mop in her hand, held at an angle like a rock star’s microphone, singing’).

Childlike – it says, ‘My mother, however, seemed to have absorbed everything about childhood that I’d left behind’. She liked pretending to be star.

Energetic/active – she was cleaning, singing and dancing all at the same time (or a relevant quote).

Musical – she loved musicals, dancing and singing. She liked to sing out loud a lot.

Focused – she didn’t look up from her pan of dusting (when she spoke to Monica).

Fantastic/great/fabulous (or similar) – Monica says she was pretty awesome.

Adventurous – she liked doing new things/activities like blueberry picking/the blueberry picking thing was new.