

**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 Look at the text below:

*“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.”*

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

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Circle **one** piece of evidence below that suggests this.

- a. Now, she was dancing round the living room.
- b. It was kids’ stuff.
- c. When I said that, though, she stopped. “Hey, Monica, you like movies, right?”

2 Read the text below:

*‘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.’*

Tick **one** statement that is true about Monica.

Tick **one**.

Monica feels grown-up.

Monica is not a child.

Monica likes her mum’s dancing.

3 Read the text below:

*“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?”*

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

Find **one** way.

1. Monica says \_\_\_\_\_

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

Monica

energetic

Mum

worn-out

5 Look at the text below.

*‘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.’*

What impression do you get of Mum and her personality?

Give **one** impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Mum is \_\_\_\_\_

I know because it says \_\_\_\_\_

# Answers

1 Look at the text below:

*“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.”*

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

**Monica/the young girl/the child/the daughter.**

Circle **one** piece of evidence below that suggests this.

- a. Now, she was dancing round the living room.
- b. It was kids’ stuff.
- c. **When I said that, though, she stopped. “Hey, Monica, you like movies, right?”**

2 Read the text below:

*‘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.’*

Tick **one** statement that is true about Monica.

Tick **one**.



Monica feels grown-up.



Monica is not a child.



Monica likes her mum’s dancing.

3 Read the text below:

*“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?”*

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

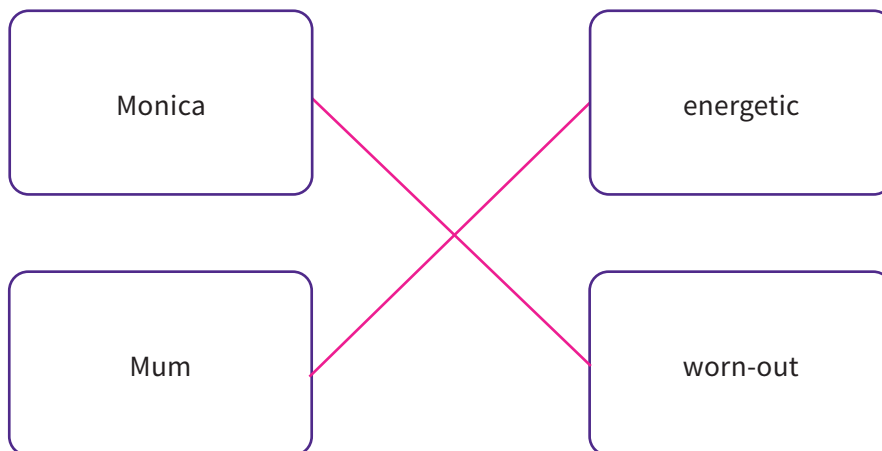
Find **one** way.

Either of the following:

Monica says, “We’re WHAT?”

Monica says, “What am I? A servant?”

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



5 Look at the text below.

*‘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.’*

What impression do you get of Mum and her personality?

Give **one** impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Any one of the following (or similar) with evidence from the text (which can be paraphrased).

Fun – she liked dancing in the kitchen/pretending to be a star.

Musical – she liked pretending to be a star.

Organised/tidy – she dumped a pan of crumbs into the trash/she was cleaning everything up/she kept the house clean and tidy.

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.

Outgoing/confident – she was known to sing out loud a lot.