

Year 5

Jam Session 3

Inference 2d

All I could hear in response were birds. I sniffed and wiped my eyes. My finger hurt and it looked puffy. I picked up my bucket and ran back up to where I thought my mum had been working. She wasn't there anymore. When I ran down the row calling out and looking for her, I saw no one and heard nothing. I flipped the bucket upside down and sat on it, resting my face in my hands for a moment while I let a few tears slide down my nose. There was nothing else to do but pick, I thought.

So I stood up and walked a few rows back, parking myself next to a particularly tall blueberry shrub, making sure it was relatively bee-free. With both hands, I started yanking every ripe blueberry from the branches, fuelled by anger. Gradually, though, I slowed down, feeling calmer as the sun shifted and a breeze cooled off my shoulders.

"These are weird," I said to myself, looking at a handful of berries. They were dusty-looking, like they'd been frosted. However, the dust rubbed off when I wiped them against my shirt. I'd never picked blueberries before; I'd actually never picked any berries before, and being out there was annoyingly hot and full of bugs. But I was beginning to relax. I caught myself humming one of the songs from the soundtrack my mother had been listening to that morning and made myself stop.

I moved to the next bush and started on that one. Shortly after, I walked to another, and then another, picking a handful of fruit from each before looking for new territory. My bucket was only a third of the way full, and my finger was hot and red, but I had to admit, I was having fun.

I didn't hear my mother when she walked up. I had filled my bucket another third of the way to the top, and I was singing and dancing in place under the branches.

"Who's making-believe now?" My mum laughed.

I was embarrassed. "Yeah...but I'm eleven. I'm allowed to do this."

"Newsflash, honey: people never get too old to pretend."

"I got stung," I said, and suddenly needed a hug. I almost tipped over my harvest, but jumped over it before kicking the pail. Mum set hers down and hugged me back. "Let's head home, shall we?"

We paid for our berries by weight. Mum got me a can of Coke from a rickety, old machine in the barn, which I put on my finger before I popped the tab. We shared it in the car on the way home.

When we got back, Mum gave me some first-aid cream for my sting, and I curled up on the living room couch with a book. I don't remember which song exactly, because I was drifting in and out of a nap, but I heard my mum singing along to West Side Story again. Only this time, it made me smile, and when I woke up, there were five jars of jam on the counter and the house smelled like vanilla, sugar and fruit.

Questions

1 Look at the first paragraph. What do you know about what it was like at the blueberry farm?

How do you know? Find **one** piece of evidence:

2 Think about the whole text.

Tick **two** statements that are true about Monica and her mum.

Tick **two**.

Monica started to enjoy picking blueberries.

Monica was angry the whole time.

Monica's mum thought Monica was silly to be playing make-believe.

Monica did not think she was too old for a cuddle.

Monica's mum was deliberately avoiding her.

3 Read from “*These are weird,*” I said to myself, looking at a handful of berries’ to the end.

How do you know Monica starts to enjoy herself?

Give **three** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

The heat

cold

Monica's finger

burning

The breeze

annoying

5 Think about the end of the text.

What **impression** do you get of Monica when she is back home?

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

1. _____

2. _____

Answers

1 Look at the first paragraph. What do you know about what it was like at the blueberry farm?

An answer that suggests there was no noise - quiet/silent/soundless/still. It was so quiet; all she could hear were the birds.

An answer that suggests there was no one around - empty/deserted/isolated/there weren't any people.

How do you know? Find **one** piece of evidence:

I saw no one and heard nothing / All I could hear in response were birds.

2 Think about the whole text.

Tick **two** statements that are true about Monica and her mum.

Tick **two**.



Monica started to enjoy picking blueberries.



Monica was angry the whole time.



Monica's mum thought Monica was silly to be playing make-believe.



Monica did not think she was too old for a cuddle.



Monica's mum was deliberately avoiding her.

3 Read from “*These are weird,*” I said to myself, looking at a handful of berries’ to the end.

How do you know Monica starts to enjoy herself?

Give **three** ways.

Accept any three of the following quotes or paraphrases which may or may not include an explanation:

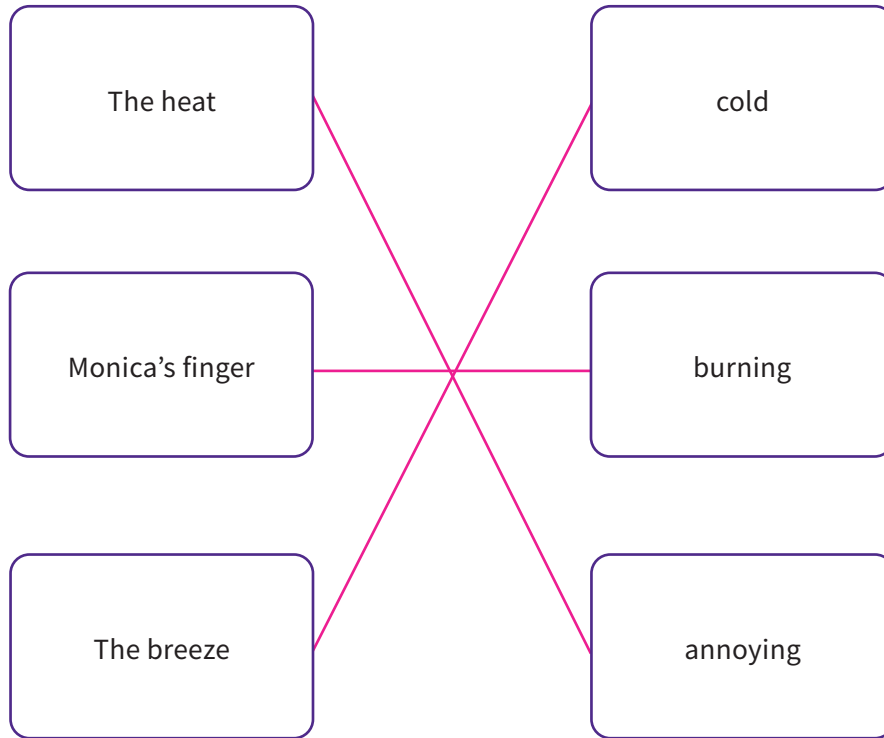
But I had to admit, I was having fun.

But I was beginning to relax.

I caught myself humming (one of the songs from the soundtrack my mother had been listening to).

I was singing and dancing in place under the branches.

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



5 Think about the end of the text.

What **impression** do you get of Monica when she is back home?

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

Accept any two of the below which suggest the following (quote or paraphrase):

Calm/relaxed/chilled – It says, 'I curled up on the living room couch with a book' and she had a nap. This shows she is relaxing and calm/not angry anymore.

Content/happy/cheerful – It says, 'I heard my mum singing along to West Side Story again. Only this time, it made me smile.' This shows she is happy.

Grateful/lucky – It says, 'When I woke up, there were five jars of jam on the counter and the house smelled like vanilla, sugar and fruit.' This shows she's grateful for the treats her mum made.

Grateful/lucky - Her mum gave her first-aid cream to stop her finger hurting which she would be grateful for.