

Scaffolding Inference

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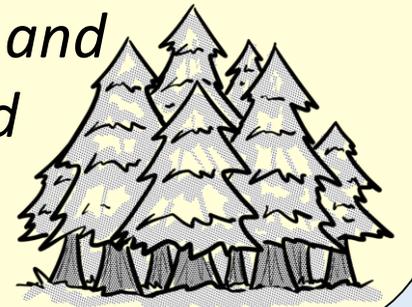
Thinking about the question

Let's have another look the question: Who is Mrs Swish? How do you know?

This will take a bit of thinking. Click on the following slides to follow a train of thought that leads towards an answer. Don't forget, you have to show how you know.

It was getting dark and the wind was picking up. Ash fastened the top button of her coat, wrapped her scarf a little tighter around her neck and ventured farther into the trees. Mrs Swish would hate being out at a time like this. Of course, Swishy had stayed out alone late before – she loved roaming around the fields and hedges but Ash thought she probably avoided the woods if she could help it.

“Swish! Swishy, Swishy, Swishy!” she cried, shaking the food box and sweeping the beam of her flashlight all around. Every now and then, she paused and listened. Nothing. What if she had got stuck up a tree? Mrs Swish loved climbing up trees, fences and even onto garage roofs. Unfortunately, she wasn't very good at getting down again.

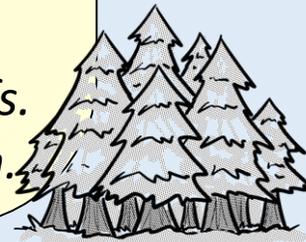


Thinking about the question

Who is Mrs Swish? How do you know?

It was getting dark and the wind was picking up. Ash fastened the top button of her coat and wrapped her scarf a little tighter around her neck. Mrs Swish would hate being out at a time like this. Of course, she had stayed out alone late before – she loved roaming around the fields and hedges but Ash thought she probably avoided the woods if she could help it.

“Swish! Swishy, Swishy, Swishy!” she cried, shaking the food box and sweeping the beam of her flashlight all around. Every now and then, she paused and listened. Nothing. What if she had got stuck up a tree? Mrs Swish loved climbing up trees, fences and even onto garage roofs. Unfortunately, she wasn’t very good a getting down again.



This question is about role assignment (who Mrs Swish is) and local inferences.

I need to search the text for clues as to who Mrs Swish is.

... dogs tend to be taken for walks, not allowed out alone ...

Mrs Swish is a strange name. Perhaps it’s a pet ...

... climbing onto fences and roofs seems like cat behaviour.

Answering the question

Who is Mrs Swish? How do you know?

Remember, there are two parts to this question. You need to give the answer and provide some evidence.

Answer: Mrs Swish must be a cat because:

- she likes to roam the fields alone
- she likes to climb things like trees and fences but isn't very good at getting down.

Also accept:

- Ash was shaking a box of food – probably cat food.
- Ash was calling her name but not using any other words.



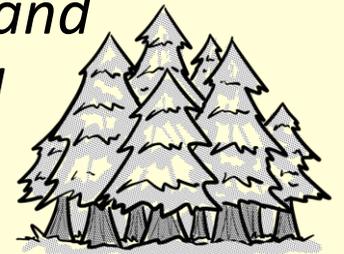
Note: you will probably only need one or two pieces of evidence but it is useful to see a full range of possible answers.

Let's have another go ...

Re-read the text and think about the question below.

It was getting dark and the wind was picking up. Ash fastened the top button of her coat and wrapped her scarf a little tighter around her neck. Mrs Swish would hate being out at a time like this. Of course, she had stayed out alone late before – she loved roaming around the fields and hedges but Ash thought she probably avoided the woods if she could help it.

“Swish! Swishy, Swishy, Swishy!” she cried, shaking the food box and sweeping the beam of her flashlight all around. Every now and then, she paused and listened. Nothing. What if she had got stuck up a tree? Mrs Swish loved climbing up trees, fences and even onto garage roofs. Unfortunately, she wasn't very good at getting down again.



Question: How is Ash feeling about Mrs Swish? How do you know?