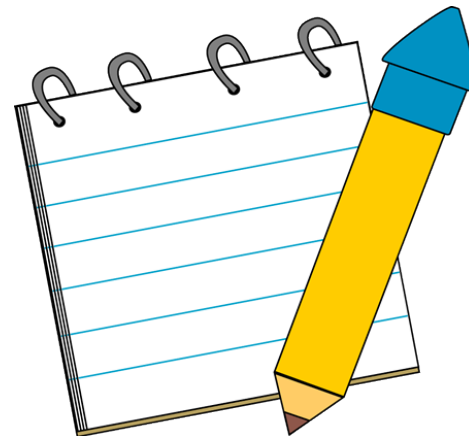
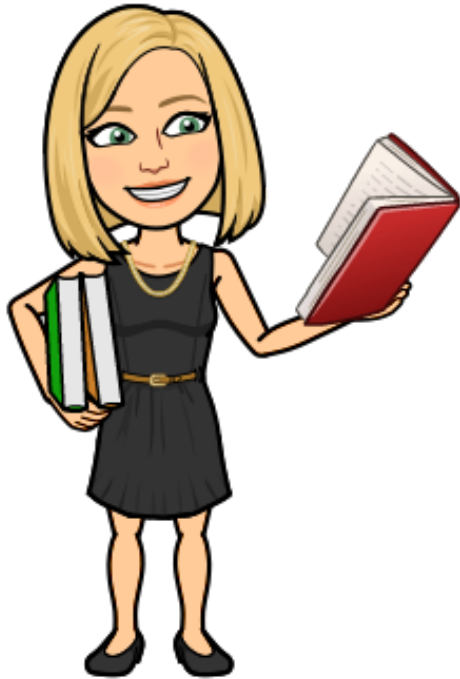


English

Thursday 21st January 2021

In our lesson today, we will learn how to use clues in a text to work out what the author is telling us. This is called inference.

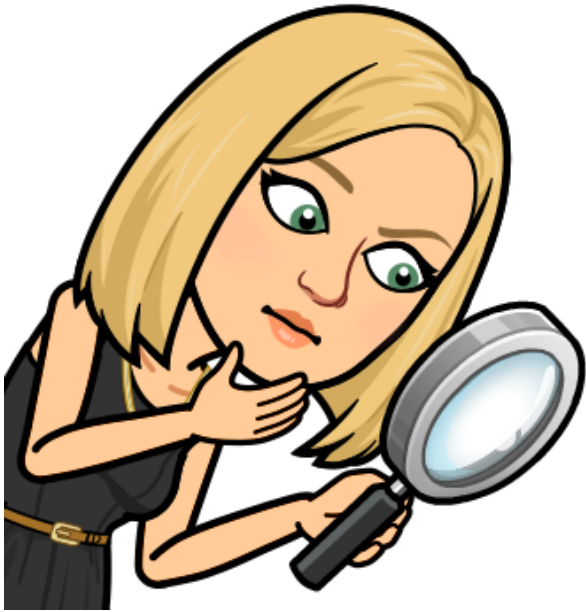


What is inference?

An inference is when you think about a set of facts, and make a logical decision about what happened. Making an inference while you read, is similar to being a detective. You have to look at the clues given in the text, then think about what most likely happened.



What is inference?



Good readers are always thinking about what they are reading. Sometimes, an author will not come out and say exactly what you need to know. The author wants you to think about all of the details, and make an inference about what might have happened.

How do I make an inference?

When you are reading and you need to make an inference, you rely on two main things:

- 1) What you already know and have experienced in your life. This is called **schema**
- 2) The clues in the text that the author gives you. **These are called context clues.**



Let's try an example!

Just think about what makes the most sense.

Lucas heard Sofia yell, "Watch out I'm jumping in!" and then he heard a loud splash. Later, Sofia came into the house to get some food. Sofia had a towel wrapped around her. She was still dripping wet and wearing pink goggles.

What can we infer that Sofia was doing?

What do you think?

Lucas heard Sofia yell, “Watch out I’m jumping in!” and then he heard a loud splash. Later, Sofia came into the house to get some food. Sofia had a towel wrapped around her. She was still dripping wet and wearing pink goggles.

What can we **infer** that Mary was doing?

Swimming!

Were you right?

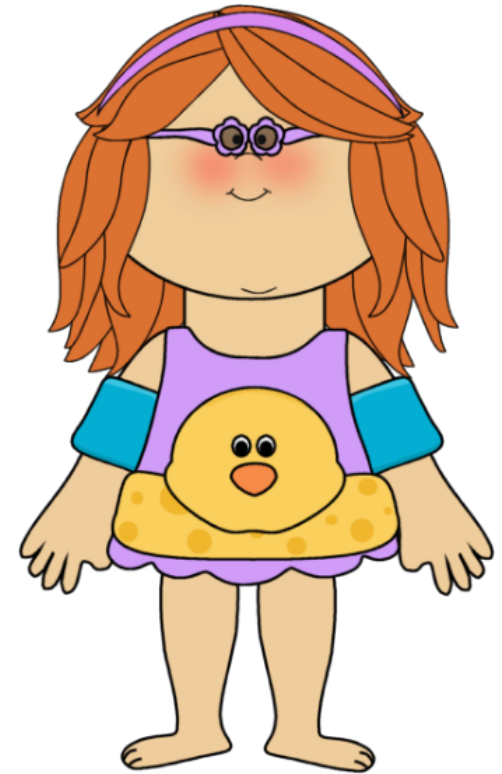
If you said “swimming” then you are correct and made an **inference**!

Have you been swimming before? If so, then you have probably seen another person jump in. You may remember the big splash. You relied on what you already have seen and heard. This is relying on your **schema** to help you make an inference.



Were you right?

Next, the author gave us some **context clues** to let us know what might have happened. The author said that Sofia was **dripping wet**, **wearing goggles** and had a **towel** wrapped around her. Even if you have never seen any one jump in before, you can use these text clues to figure out that Sofia must have been swimming



Use the right vocabulary

When you make an inference, it is important to use the word **infer** to show that you have made a logical conclusion. If someone asks you to make an inference, be sure and reply with the sentence...

I **infer** that

Do not use these sentences, because these are not the same as inferring something:

I think that....

I hope that....

Instead ... be sure to write

I infer that



Text Evidence Sentence Starters

According to the passage,

According to the text,

For example,

For instance,

In paragraph _____, I read . . .

In the text,

On page _____, I read . . .

The author/poet describes . . .

The author/poet implies . . .

The author/poet states . . .

The author's/poet's words show . . .

The author/poet writes . . .

The reader can infer . . .

The reader can tell . . .

When you have to write sentences to support your answer, make sure to use some of these sentence starters to help make your writing even stronger.



Time to have a go!



It's your turn to be an inference detective!
Get some paper and a pencil and write
down what you infer from the next passages

Oscar was so upset! Someone left the gate
open in the back garden He ran down the
street crying, calling for "Pumpkin" and was
holding a lead in his hand.



What do you infer that happened? Why?
Share your answers with your grown up and
discuss your schema and the text clues!

Did your ideas match mine?

Oscar was so upset! Someone left the gate open in the back garden He ran down the street crying, calling for “Pumpkin” and was holding a lead in his hand.

I infer Oscar was upset because his dog, Pumpkin, was lost and he was looking for it. I know this because dogs use a lead and **the author states** that Oscar had one in his hand. **In the text it also says** that the gate had been left open and I know that if a gate is left open animals might escape. **I can infer** that Oscar was looking for his dog because the text tells me he ran down the street calling his dog’s name.



Let's try one last time!

You are doing great and are becoming inferencing detectives! Read the passage below and then make some inferences.

John loves the outdoors and was so excited about this upcoming trip. He packed his backpack, tent and fishing rod. He called Pat and reminded him not to forget the marshmallows, biscuits and chocolate bars for dessert later that night! John sprayed on some bug spray and headed out the door. He was so excited about sleeping outside tonight under the stars!

Make two inferences:

1. Where was John going?
2. What was he going to make for desert



These are my answers:

1. I infer that John went camping.
2. I infer that they made S'mores for desert.



The author states that John took a back pack and tent with him and was looking forward to sleeping under the stars. I know that when people go camping they pack their things in a back pack, take a tent and sleep under the stars. **The author also describes** how John took his fishing rod with him and I know that people take part in outdoor sports when they go camping. If you go outside for a long time – such as when you go camping – you might get bitten by lots of insects so you would put on bug spray. **In the text** it says that John put on bug spray, **I can therefore infer** he is going somewhere there will be bugs such as a camp site. The author also lists the ingredients for S/mores in the text, so I can infer that they will make S'mores for dessert.

Always make sure that your answer makes the most sense, using **ALL** of the clues. For example, what if someone had answered:

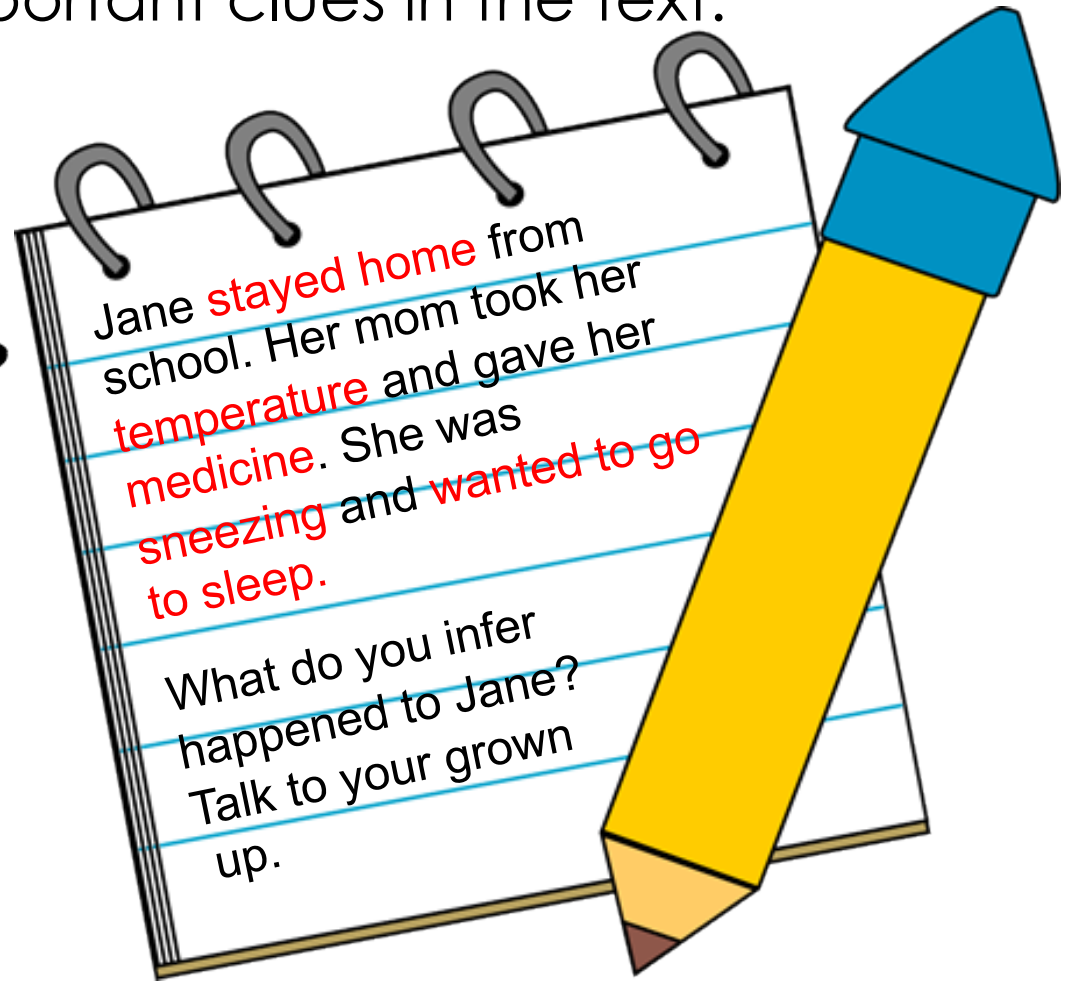


I infer that John was going to school because he had a backpack. That makes a little sense, but would John also bring a fishing rod and a tent to school? **No!** So think about **ALL** of the clues given before you make an inference!



Making Inferences Can Be Tricky!

If you are having trouble, sometimes it helps to take notes, highlight or circle important clues in the text.



Remember

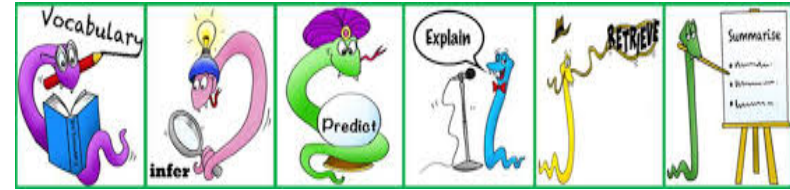
Become a great reader by **thinking** about what you are reading. Make **connections** to what you already know. Look for **context clues** to see what the author is trying to say. Make inferences based on **all** of the clues that you find.

Your Task

Complete the activities on the next few pages.

Remember to use the correct **vocabulary** in your answers to explain your **context clues** and **schema**.

Inference Detective



What is the character physically doing?

What is happening around the character?

I can infer that...

Complete this task and then choose one of the next two tasks to complete. **You can complete both of them but you don't have to.**

Inference Tasks

Mr. Evans' Busy Day

"I'm so tired." yawned Mr. Evans. "Busy day at work?" asked Mrs. Evans. "Very," said Mr. Evans, as he placed his stethoscope and white coat on the chair. "There are some nasty bugs going round and I spent most of the morning looking down people's sore throats and into their aching ears." "Ooh, that sounds nasty." said Mrs. Evans. "Yes," said Mr. Evans, "it's a good thing that we have all the right medicines to prescribe to our patients nowadays."

1. What was Mr. Evans' job?

2. What evidence did you find in the text to make you think this?



Remember to write your answer in full sentences using the sentence starters on pages 9 and 10.

ANSWERS

Inference Detective



What is the character physically doing?

The boy is laying his head on the windowsill. He is staring out of the window.

What is happening around the character?

It is raining outside. It looks very dull.

I can infer that...

...the boy is bored of staying in the house and wants to go outside but can't because it is raining.

medicines to prescribe to our patients nowadays."

1. What was Mr. Evans' job?

I infer that Mr Evans was a doctor.

2. What evidence did you find in the text to make you think this?

The author tells us Mr Evans has a stethoscope and a white coat. I know doctors use these.

In the text Mr Evans talks about nasty bugs, looking down people's sore throats and eading ears. This is what doctors do.

I knew that doctors prescribe medicine and the author tells us that this is what Mr Evans has been doing.

Well done Year 2! You are working so hard and I am VERY proud of you.

