



Part 6: Inferring - Reading Between the Lines

Making Inferences

Inferences encourage children to think beyond what is written on the page.

Inferring is often referred to as “reading between the lines” where the reader uses clues the author has given to gain deeper meaning.



The skill of inferring is a natural part of an adult’s day. Inferring is not only about reading body language, expressions and situations, but it is also about reading text. Inferring involves readers searching for deeper meaning from a text.

Children using this strategy learn to recognise that meaning may not always be explicit. Inferences may be confirmed, altered, or disregarded as readers reflect on and draw conclusions about what an author is stating. Skilled readers search for clues to support inferences and confirm deeper meaning while reading.

Games that Build Inferences

Word games develop inferencing by encouraging children to pay attention to clues, ask questions, make predictions, and confirm or change their guesses as they play.

- ✓ “Guess who”- riddles, board game
- ✓ Twenty questions- You have twenty chances to guess a mystery person or object.
- ✓ Simile game- Say a phrase like, “As soft as a _____”. Then take turns to fill in the gap.
- ✓ Inferring charades-Act out a word or phrase without speaking and challenge each other to use the clues to

Focus Questions

- What “clues” did you join together to help you make this inference?
- What words helped you infer? Why?
- What illustrations helped you infer? Why?
- How did your inferences help you better understand what you were reading?
- How can you explain inference to someone else?
- What clues did the author use to help you predict what was going to happen later?
- How did you work out this inference?