

Making Inferences

5th Grade

Reading what the writer did not say, using what they did.

An inference is a conclusion drawn from evidence in the text plus what you already know. It is not a guess.

text clue + what I know = inference

"She zipped her coat and hurried. It is cold, and she is late"

Coat = cold. Hurried = late. Neither word appears.

"The bowl was empty and the dog wagged. The dog ate the food"

Two clues combine into one conclusion.

"He read the letter twice, then he was surprised or upset him"

Behaviour is evidence of feeling.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **"I think she is sad because I would be"**

✓ **"She is sad because the text says her eyes were wet"**

An inference must be anchored to something on the page, not to how you would feel.

If you cannot point at the words that led you there, it is a guess, not an inference.