

Detective Skills: Mastering Inference with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using clues from the text and our own knowledge to understand what is not directly stated.

Read the front of the card and try to guess the answer. Then, flip the card to see if you have used your detective skills correctly! Discuss your reasoning with a partner.

What is an inference? An inference is using clues from the text and what you already know to figure out something that is not directly written.	Max the monkey is shivering and his teeth are chattering. What can you infer about the weather? You can infer that it is very cold outside.
Pip the caterpillar is wearing a raincoat and holding an umbrella. What can you infer is happening? You can infer that it is raining.	Why do we use 'clues' in a story? We use clues to help us understand how characters are feeling or what is happening without the author having to tell us everything directly.
The text says: 'Zara the zebra wiped a tear from her eye and looked at her broken painting.' How is Zara feeling? You can infer that Zara is feeling sad or upset.	If a character is running, looking behind them, and breathing very fast, what can you infer? You can infer that the character is scared or in a big hurry.
True or False: An inference is the same as just guessing. False. An inference must be based on evidence (clues) from the text.	Leo the lion is smiling and wagging his tail while holding a birthday cake. What can you infer? You can infer that it is a happy occasion, like a birthday celebration.
If a character leaves their umbrella in the hallway and walks in with wet shoes, what do you know? You can infer that they have just come in from the rain.	When we make an inference, what two things do we combine? We combine the clues in the text with what we already know from our own experiences.