

Mastering the Art of Inference with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning in a text by using clues and background knowledge to understand what is not explicitly stated.

Read the front of each card carefully. Think about the clues provided by the text, then flip to check if your inference matches the logic behind the mystery.

What is an inference? An inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning, rather than being directly stated in the text.	Pip the caterpillar is wearing a woolly scarf and blowing on his hands. What can you infer about the weather? It is likely very cold or wintertime.
Max the monkey is looking at his empty snack bowl and sighing. What can you infer about Max? Max is probably hungry or disappointed that his snack is finished.	If a character is 'explicitly' described as angry, what does this mean? It means the author has stated clearly that the character is angry, so no guessing is required.
What is the difference between an observation and an inference? An observation is something you can see or read directly; an inference is a 'reading between the lines' conclusion you make based on those observations.	Zara the zebra is painting with bright, swirling colours and humming a happy tune. How might Zara be feeling? You can infer that Zara is feeling joyful, creative, or inspired.
Finn the dolphin dives deep into the ocean and finds a rusty, old ship's wheel. What can you infer about the history of this spot? You can infer that a ship may have sunk here a long time ago.	Why do authors use inference instead of telling us everything directly? To make the story more engaging, to encourage the reader to use their imagination, and to build suspense.
If a text says: 'Kit the fox checked his watch for the third time and tapped his foot impatiently,' what can you infer? Kit is in a hurry, running late, or waiting for someone who is behind schedule.	Nova the owl is staring at a telescope and jotting down notes about the night sky. What can you infer about Nova's interests? Nova is interested in astronomy and the study of stars or space.
If a character walks into a room and everyone suddenly stops talking, what is the atmosphere? You can infer that the atmosphere is tense, awkward, or that the character has interrupted a secret conversation.	When making an inference, what two things should you combine? The clues provided in the text and your own prior knowledge or experiences.