

Becoming a Detective: The Art of Inference

Be a Literacy Detective: Read Between the Lines!

- An inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning rather than explicit statements.
- To infer, combine what the text tells you with what you already know about the world.
- Look for clues in the character's actions, dialogue, and body language to uncover their hidden emotions.
- Setting descriptions often contain atmosphere clues, such as weather or lighting, which suggest the mood of the scene.
- If a character slams a door, the author rarely says 'they are angry'; they show you the action so you can infer the feeling.

Did you know? Did you know? Authors often use the 'Iceberg Theory' when writing. The explicit information—what is actually written on the page—is just the tip of the iceberg visible above the water. The inference—what the reader figures out for themselves—is the massive, hidden part beneath the surface that makes the story feel real!

Key vocabulary: Inference · Evidence · Deduction · Implicit · Explicit · Characterisation · Atmosphere · Interpretation