

Mastering Inference with Pip the Bookworm

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

Read the front of the flashcard and use your detective skills to identify the meaning or the inference. Then, flip the card to see if you and Pip the Bookworm are on the same page!

What is an inference? An inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning, rather than something explicitly stated in the text.	If a character slams their book shut and storms out of the room, what can we infer? We can infer that the character is angry, frustrated, or upset.
What is the difference between 'explicit' and 'implicit' information? Explicit information is stated clearly in the text; implicit information is suggested or implied but not stated directly.	Pip reads: 'The sun was hidden behind thick, grey clouds and the temperature dropped rapidly.' What can we infer about the weather? We can infer that it is about to rain or that a storm is approaching.
Why do we need to use 'evidence' when making an inference? Evidence acts as the 'clues' from the text that support our ideas, ensuring our inference is logical rather than just a guess.	If a character is described as 'clutching their coat tightly against the howling wind,' what is the setting? The setting is likely a cold, windy, or stormy outdoor environment.
How does our own background knowledge help us infer? We use our own experiences (like knowing what a frown means) to interpret how a character might be feeling in a story.	If a character says, 'I suppose I'll have to do it myself,' what can we infer about their attitude? We can infer they are feeling annoyed, burdened, or that they lack trust in others to complete the task.
True or False: An inference is always 100% correct. False. An inference is a 'best guess' based on clues; different readers might infer slightly different things if the text is ambiguous.	If a story mentions a character checking their watch and tapping their foot, what can we infer? We can infer that the character is impatient, running late, or waiting for someone.
Why is inference like being a detective? Like a detective, you must gather small clues from the text and put them together to 'solve' the mystery of what is happening.	Pip finds a note saying, 'I've spent £15 on the ingredients, so we need to sell the cakes for more than that.' What can we infer about the character's goal? The character wants to make a profit or at least cover their costs for a bake sale.