

Mastering Inference with Pip and Kit

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inferring meaning from a text by using evidence and prior knowledge to read between the lines.

Read the question on the front of each card. Use your detective skills to determine what the text implies, then check the answer on the back to see if you used the right clues.

Definition: What is an inference?

An inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning, rather than explicit statements in the text.

Pip the caterpillar is wearing a thick, woolly jumper and shivering. What can you infer about the weather?

You can infer that it is cold outside.

Kit the fox is frantically searching under cushions and checking his pockets while biting his lip. How is Kit feeling?

You can infer that Kit is feeling anxious or worried because he has lost something important.

True or False: An inference is the same thing as a prediction.

False. An inference explains what is happening now based on clues, whereas a prediction is a guess about what will happen next.

If a character slams their book shut and storms out of the room without saying a word, what can you infer about their mood?

You can infer that the character is angry or frustrated.

What are the two 'ingredients' needed to make a successful inference?

The text evidence (what the author says) plus your own background knowledge (what you already know about the world).

If the author writes: 'The sun set, and the streetlights flickered to life,' what time of day is it?

It is evening or dusk.

Kit finds a wet umbrella in the hallway and muddy paw prints on the rug. What has happened?

Someone has recently come inside from the rain.

Pip reads a note: 'I can't wait to see the presents!' What can you infer about the occasion?

It is likely someone's birthday or a special celebration like Christmas.

Why must an inference be supported by evidence?

To ensure your conclusion is logical and not just a wild guess.

If a character says, 'I suppose I have to go to the dentist now,' what does their word choice ('I suppose') suggest?

It suggests they are reluctant or unhappy about going.

Fill in the blank: An inference is like being a _____.

Detective, because you are looking for clues to solve a mystery.