

Investigating Character: The Inference Journal

Learning objective: To make inferences about a character's feelings, thoughts, and motives using clues from the text.

Read the short story passage provided by your teacher. Use this journal to record evidence from the text and use your own knowledge to infer what is happening beneath the surface. Remember to look for 'show, don't tell' clues like body language, tone of voice, or specific word choices.

Word bank: atmosphere · motive · implied · clue · deduction · perspective · evidence · characterisation

1. The Feeling Behind the Words: Quote a specific sentence where the character shows an emotion without naming it (e.g., they don't say 'I am sad'). What does this tell you about their mood? (2 marks)

2. Reading Between the Lines: Why do you think the character chose to act in this way? Use evidence from the text to support your idea about their hidden motive. (3 marks)

3. The Unspoken Atmosphere: Describe the setting or the way the characters interact. What is the author suggesting about the relationship between the people in the scene? (2 marks)

4. Predicting the Future: Based on the clues you have gathered so far, what do you think the character will do next? Explain the logic behind your prediction. (2 marks)

5. The 'Big Why': If you were the character, would you have made the same choice? Explain your reasoning using what you have inferred about their personality. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph from the perspective of a different character in the scene. How would they interpret the main character's actions differently?