

Close Reading

Drawing Conclusions/Making Inferences

NAME: _____

CLASS: _____

Do you like reading make-believe stories? If so, then you like to read fiction. Authors who write fiction make up the stories from their imagination. Books like *Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, and *The Hobbit* are examples of fiction.

Sometimes an author of a make-believe story tells you details directly. The author does this so there are no questions or confusion as you read. For example, an author may provide details about the characters. Or about the setting of a story. Or about the events or action in a story. But other times the author provides only hints or clues. The author does not tell you directly about the setting, characters, or events. You need to figure out what the clues mean. You need to be a detective as you read!

A good detective gathers clues. Then the detective connects those clues with information he or she already knows. By making this connection, the detective can come up with a smart guess about what is going on. When you read, connect the clues in the story with information you already know. You'll be able to make a smart guess about what the author is trying to tell you.

► Read these paragraphs.



Ryan watched Dad carry a small box into their house. Dad put the box on the floor and motioned for Ryan to come closer. As Ryan walked closer to the box, he could hear a tiny sound coming from inside. The sound reminded Ryan of a quiet, gentle motor. He could hear a slight scratching sound too.

Dad asked Ryan to close his eyes and put his hand inside the box. Ryan reached in and felt something small. It was warm and covered with soft fur.

The author does not tell you directly what is in the box. Can you figure out what it is? What is a smart guess?

CLUES IN THE TEXT	WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW
Dad is carrying a small box.	If the box is small, the thing inside must also be small.
The thing inside the box is making a sound like a small motor.	A kitten makes a sound like this when it is purring.
Ryan feels something small and covered with fur.	A kitten is a tiny animal that has soft fur on it.

The author did not tell you directly that a kitten was inside the box. But the author did provide clues. When you combined those clues with information you already knew, it was easy to figure it out!

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► Read the following paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.



“Centro, take this stick,” my grandfather, Old Pop, said. As he handed the single stick to me, he said, “This is a stick by itself. What can you tell me about it?”

“It’s a single stick, Old Pop. What is there to tell?” I said.

“Do you think you can break the stick?” he asked. I did not answer him. I simply snapped the stick in two and let the pieces drop to the ground.

Old Pop was quiet. He looked at the two pieces on the ground. “Centro, that stick is you. If you are alone in the world, you can be snapped in half. You will be broken and fall to the ground.”

I looked at the pieces on the ground. “Now Centro,” Old Pop said, “take these five sticks. They are tied together into a bundle. These five sticks are you and your brothers. See if you can break this bundle of sticks.”

I took the bundle from Old Pop. I held one end in my right hand and the other in my left hand. I used all the strength I had to try to snap the bundle of sticks in half. But I could not do it. I tried again and again. But the bundle of sticks would not break.

1. Based on the clues in these paragraphs, you can figure out that Old Pop is trying to



- A. punish his grandson for misbehaving.
- B. teach his grandson a lesson.
- C. enjoy a pleasant afternoon in his garden.
- D. help his grandson make new friends.

2. Based on clues in these paragraphs, you can figure out that Old Pop



- A. thinks that brothers should spend time away from one another.
- B. hopes that Centro moves away from home.
- C. believes it is important for brothers to get along with one another.
- D. wants Centro to clean up the sticks that are on the ground.

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► Read the following paragraphs and answer the questions that follow.



Strong walls surrounded the country. They had to hold back the sea. The walls were as thick as roads. Some men in this country had the job to check the walls. The men had to ensure these walls were safe and sound. Each day, the men walked along the ground at the edge of the walls. They checked the walls for any small holes or cracks that might have appeared since the day before.

The men had to fix even the tiniest hole or crack as soon as possible. The powerful sea could quickly make a small hole grow into a huge problem. The force of the water would make a hole get bigger and bigger. Soon the sea could burst through the wall.

3. Based on the clues in these paragraphs, what can you figure out?



- A. The country is located below sea level.
- B. The country is located high on a mountain top.
- C. The men in the country know how to swim.
- D. The walls in the country are made from bricks.

4. The clues in these paragraphs let you figure out that the walls



- A. serve no purpose.
- B. should be torn down.
- C. protect the land from flooding.
- D. allow water to flow freely to the land.