

Inference Practice

Teaching Tips: Making inferences is an abstract concept that can develop over time. The following passages can be used to practice applying prior knowledge and text evidence to support student inferences. I use the following pages in independent work folders to reinforce the introduction I make on the smart board with my "Making Inference Introduction" lesson and after introducing the graphic organizer used in my "Inference Work" lesson. This lesson can be used to get a basic idea for which students are catching on to finding/citing the evidence and which are just answering the questions without providing "proof."

Directions:

Use the following pages as independent work to informally assess students' concepts of making and supporting inferences.

Remind students to underline or highlight evidence within the text and to complete all parts of the graphic organizer.

Check work together as a class or during a small group session to discuss the passages and evidence to reinforce students' understanding and build their confidence.

Extension/Challenge: Invite students who "finish early" or "need more challenge" to create additional questions for the passages to add to their graphic organizers. Invite students to create their own short inference passages with questions.

Inference Practice

Sandy's birthday party was almost over. She had blown out her candles and opened gifts. Her friends were full of cake and fruit juice! She had saved her cake on a plate. Now she was swinging a stick in the air. Her eyes were covered with a bandanna. After three swings, she took off the bandanna. It was Avery's turn next, and he was very strong.

She was ready to eat her cake. Oh, no! A big bite was missing! Who had eaten part of her cake? Sandy looked at her friends. Lisa and Jackson had red stains above their mouths. Ava's mouth was clean. Jason had crumbs on his lips. Monica was still eating her cake.

Suddenly, there was a loud cheer as candy and toys spilled onto the ground from the bottom of the pinata.

- Who ate Sandy's cake?
- Why did Sandy have a bandana over her eyes?
- What will the kids in the story probably do next?

| Question | Evidence/Support | Inference |
|----------|------------------|-----------|
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| | | |

Jamal was excited! His suitcase was packed, and the tickets were on the counter. His mom was double checking the schedule online. It should take them four hours to get to Aunt Terry and Uncle Steve's house. He couldn't wait to see his cousin, Chris.

At last, his family piled into the car. They drove across town and parked in a parking lot. Inside the building, they gave their luggage and tickets to a lady at the counter. They waited in a room with many chairs and big windows. Finally, they went through a door and a hallway and into an area filled with small rows of seats. They looked at their tickets and found row 12, seats a, b, and c.

After sitting down, Jamal looked out a little window. He heard a voice on the speaker say, "Please fasten your seat belts." Then he heard the loud roar of an engine.

- Where did Jamal's family drive?
- Where is Jamal now?
- Does Jamal's cousin Chris live nearby?

| Question | Evidence/Support | Inference |
|----------|------------------|-----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Inference Practice Answer Key

Sandy's birthday party was almost over. She had blown out her candles and opened gifts. Her friends were full of cake and fruit juice! She had saved her cake on a plate. Now she was swinging a stick in the air. Her eyes were covered with a bandanna. After three swings, she took off the bandanna. It was Avery's turn next, and he was very strong.

She was ready to eat her cake. Oh, no! A big bite was missing! Who had eaten part of her cake? Sandy looked at her friends. Lisa and Jackson had red stains above their mouths. Ava's mouth was clean. Jason had crumbs on his lips. Monica was still eating her cake.

Suddenly, there was a loud cheer as candy and toys spilled onto the ground from the bottom of the pinata.

- Who ate Sandy's cake?
- Why did Sandy have a bandanna over her eyes?
- What will the kids in the story probably do next?

| Question | Evidence/Support | Inference |
|---|---|--|
| Who ate Sandy's cake? | Jason had crumbs on his lips. | Jason ate Sandy's cake. |
| Why did Sandy have a bandanna over her eyes? | She was swinging a stick in the air. After 3 swings, she took the bandanna off. | She was hitting a pinata. |
| What will the kids at the party probably do next? | Candy and toys spilled out from the bottom of the pinata. | The kids will collect toys and candy from the ground under the pinata. |

Jamal was excited! His suitcase was packed, and the tickets were on the counter. His mom was double checking the schedule online. It should take them four hours to get to Aunt Terry and Uncle Steve's house. He couldn't wait to see his cousin, Chris.

At last, his family piled into the car. They drove across town and parked in a parking lot. Inside the building, they gave their luggage and tickets to a lady at the counter. They waited in a room with many chairs and big windows. Finally, they went through a door and a hallway and into an area filled with small rows of seats. They looked at their tickets and found row 12, seats a, b, and c.

After sitting down, Jamal looked out a little window. He heard a voice on the speaker say, "Please fasten your seat belts." Then he heard the loud roar of an engine.

- Where did Jamal's family drive?
- Where is Jamal now?
- Does Jamal's cousin Chris live nearby?

| Question | Evidence/Support | Inference |
|--|---|--|
| Where did Jamal's family drive? | They parked their car. They gave their luggage and tickets to a lady. They waited in a room with many chairs and big windows. | They drove to the airport. |
| Where is Jamal now? | His family is sitting in row 12, seats a, b, and c. A voice told him to "fasten his seat belt." He heard the loud roar of the engine. | Jamal is in an airplane. |
| Does Jamal's cousin Chris live nearby? | It will take four hours to get there. They are taking an airplane. | No, Jamal's cousin Chris does not live nearby. |

