

## Making Inferences Introduction

**Teaching Tips:** I used the following paragraphs/short stories as a “we do” to introduce making inferences. It is important to emphasize that you need two things to make an inference: prior knowledge and text evidence.

Upon answering the following questions, discuss with students how they should be able to underline or highlight the “clues” or “text evidence” to support their inferences/answers.

These passages are short and simple, but they make a good introduction for working on inferences with larger, more challenging texts. Students gain confidence when understanding the concept of making inferences and showing evidence with simple texts before applying these skills to complex texts.

### **Directions:**

Use the smart board/interactive whiteboard to display the following short passages.

Give students, groups, or partner pairs hard copies of the passages. Set expectations for underlining or highlighting text evidence to support the inferences/answers they make.

Encourage students to quote from the text, using their highlighted/underlined evidence when giving oral and written answers.

Mom and Dad woke Jill up early. They had a big surprised planned. They all got into the minivan and drove for hours and hours. While they drove, Jill searched for clues. First, she saw it was snowing outside. Then, she saw a box with a hat, scarf, carrot, and some charcoal were packed. Finally, the family drove up a road that ended at a snowy field. "I know what we are doing!" Jill exclaimed.

What is Jill's family doing today?

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Why did Jill's family wake up early?

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Will Jill go to school the next day?

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It was my turn to cook the family meal. We each took one night a week so we could share the responsibilities and learn cooking skills.

With Mom's supervision, I filled a medium-sized pan with water and turned on the stove. I opened a package of long, thin noodles. I broke the noodles in half and dropped them into the boiling water. Then, I opened a can of red sauce. I put balls of ground beef in the frying pan. I took flavored bread out of the freezer and put it in the oven. Finally, I kept track of everything. In about 15 minutes, we had our meal.

What main dish is the writer preparing?

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What type of bread might the writer be heating?

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Why did the writer break the noodles in half?

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## Inference Introduction Answer Key

Mom and Dad woke Jill up early. They had a big surprised planned. They all got into the minivan and drove for hours and hours. While they drove, Jill searched for clues. First, she saw it was snowing outside. Then, she saw a box with a hat, scarf, carrot, and some charcoal were packed. Finally, the family drove up a road that ended at a snowy field. "I know what we are doing!" Jill exclaimed.

What is Jill's family doing today?

Jill's family is driving somewhere cold to play in the snow and build a snowman. I know this because the text states, "It was snowing outside. Then, she saw a box with a hat, scarf, carrot, and some charcoal. The road ended in a snowy field."

Why did Jill's family wake up early?

Jill's family woke up early to have enough time to drive to the snowy place. I know this because "they drove for hours and hours."

Will Jill go to school the next day?

I don't think Jill will go to school the next day because they are far from home since "they drove for hours and hours."

It was my turn to cook the family meal. We each took one night a week so we could share the responsibilities and learn cooking skills.

With Mom's supervision, I filled a medium-sized pan with water and turned on the stove. I opened a package of long, thin noodles. I broke the noodles in half and dropped them into the boiling water. Then, I opened a can of red sauce. I put balls of ground beef in the frying pan. I took flavored bread out of the freezer and put it in the oven. Finally, I kept track of everything. In about 15 minutes, we had our meal.

What main dish is the writer preparing?

The writer is making spaghetti. The text states, "I opened a package of long, thin noodles. I opened a can of red sauce." When we use long noodles and sauce at my house, we are making spaghetti.

What type of bread might the writer be heating?

I think the author might be making garlic bread. Garlic bread is served with spaghetti at restaurants. The author "took flavored bread out of the freezer."

Why did the writer break the noodles in half?

Spaghetti noodles are very long. I think the author broke the noodles in half because they wouldn't fit in the pan. The text states, "I filled a medium-sized pan with water."

