Name

Drawing Inferences FROM TextS

**Inferring** is the process of creating a *personal* meaning from text. It involves a mental process of combining what is read with relevant prior knowledge (schema). The reader's unique interpretation of text is the product of this blending.

When proficient readers infer, they create a meaning that is not necessarily stated **explicitly** in the text. The process implies that readers actively search for, or are aware of, **implicit** meaning.

When they infer, proficient readers

* Draw conclusions from text;
* Make reasonable predictions as they read, test and revise those predictions as they read further;
* Create dynamic interpretations of text that are adapted as they continue to read and after they read;
* Use the combination of background knowledge and explicitly stated information from the text to answer questions they have as they read;
* Make connections between conclusions they draw and other beliefs or knowledge;
* Make critical or analytical judgments about what they read.

When proficient readers infer, they are more able to

* Remember and reapply what they have read;
* Create new background knowledge for themselves;
* Discriminate and critically analyze text and authors;
* Engage in conversation and/or other analytical or reflective responses to what they read.

**DIRECTIONS**: Make an inference based on each statement below.

1. Sue blew out the candles and got presents.
2. Mary plays her flute for two hours every day.
3. The boat drifted in the middle of the lake.
4. John went running into the street without looking.
5. Rachel was the star pitcher, but she had a broken finger.
6. We bought tickets and some popcorn.
7. I forgot to set my alarm clock last night.
8. When I woke up, there were branches and leaves all over the yard.
9. Yesterday we cleaned out our desks and took everything home.
10. Everyone stopped when the referee blew the whistle.

STORYTELLING

**WARM UP**

1. Think about a favorite story (can be a short story, book, movie, story from family member, etc.). What makes it such a “good” story?
2. What are elements of a “good” story?

*We Real Cool*

by Gwendolyn Brooks

We real cool. We

Left school. We

Lurk late. We

Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We

Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We

Die soon.

**DIRECTIONS**

Brainstorm possible story ideas –

* What makes you who you are?
* What story about your life or experiences do you want to share with the world?

As legend goes, Ernest Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words and he wrote

"For sale:  Baby Shoes, never worn."

What is the story being told here?

His challenge continues in an online magazine called "Smith", devoted to personal storytelling.  Larry Smith, founder, started a contest in which people wrote six-word stories of their own, as memoirs...

* Elizabeth Gilbert, author of the best-selling full-length memoir "Eat, Pray, Love." wrote "**Me see world! Me write stories!"**
* Stephen Colbert's contribution: **'Well, I thought it was funny."**
* And celebrity chef Mario Batali's was steamy: **"Brought it to a boil, often."**
* Jimmy Wales, creator of Wikipedia wrote, "**Yes, you can edit this biography."**
* Then, there's Summer Grimes, whose "**Not quite what I was planning**" became the title of a book filled with the six word memoirs of writers famous and obscure.

**DIRECTIONS**

Review your brainstormed list and chose a story of your life to tell in six words.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose 8 memoirs. (Do not use your own.) For each, rewrite the memoir and make one inference about the author. Remember, inferences create meaning that is not explicitly stated in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 2 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 3 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 4 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 5 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 6 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 7 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |
|  |  |
| 8 | Memoir |
|  | Inference |