

# Making Inferences

## What Is An Inference?

- Inference: A REASONABLE CONCLUSION drawn by the reader from the AUTHOR'S clues and the READER'S own background knowledge and experience.
- TEXT information + BACKGROUND knowledge = INFERENCE
- Sometimes referred to as "reading between the lines."

## What It Is Not:

- STATING the OBVIOUS

For example: What can you infer about the girl in the picture?



- **Stating the obvious:** "That girl is wearing a fancy dress and carrying a bouquet of flowers."
- **Inference:** "That girl is a flower girl in a wedding."
- **How do you know this?**

When explaining how you came to your conclusion, you must provide CLUES from the text **AND** explain your BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE on what those clues mean to you.

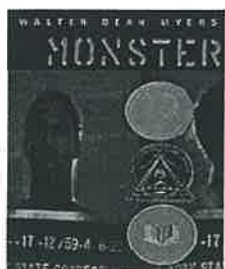
- **Example response to the inference above:**

"I know this because the girl is wearing fancy dress, is holding flowers, and there are flower pedals on the ground. Usually, flower girls will be in a fancy dress at weddings and when walking down the aisle, they tend to drop flower pedals on the ground for the bride to walk on."

## What It Is Not:

- PREDICTION

Predictions can be confirmed or changed based on what the text says.



Confirm

All you had to see were the tears running down her face and the whole story was there. I wanted to show strong for her, to let her know that she didn't have to cry for me.

## Let's Try It Out!

Why is this man on the floor? What makes you think so?



Inference: *He slipped and fell.*

**\*\*Example responses from class**

Detail from the picture:

*"Caution Wet Floor" sign*

Background Knowledge:

*means the floor could be wet and slippery*

Detail from the picture:

*The man is sprawled out on the floor with a shocked look on his face.*

Background Knowledge:

*People look like that when they fall on the ground.*

Detail from the picture:

*his belongings are scattered on the floor*

Background Knowledge:

*When someone falls they drop what they are carrying.*

Now let's put all your information into a written response! This is an example response from class:

*(Inference) I believe this man is on the floor because he slipped and fell. (Detail) I know this because there is a "Caution Wet Floor" sign (BG Knowledge) and that means the floor could be wet and slippery. (Detail) Also, the man is sprawled out on the floor with a shocked look on his face. (BG Knowledge) and when someone falls they are in that similar position and usually have a surprised look. (Detail) Finally, his belongings are also scattered on the floor. (BG Knowledge) and when someone falls while holding their belongings, they tend to drop them.*

**That's it! I now expect your inference responses**

**to resemble this one from here on out.**

Name#:

\*\*\*Turn this in to Mr. Hence\*\*\*

### Now Let's Try Inferencing From The Paragraph Below:

*Thirty young people gather in the school gym. They laugh and shout as they hang streamers and set up tables along the wall. One group makes a stage from old wooden boards. Another group bothers the music teacher until he agrees to lend them microphones. Several young people set up a table near the door and cover it with bright cloth. They put a ticket box on the table and hang signs that say "Restrooms this way" and "Refreshments this way."*

- **What are the young people preparing for? Prep your response below.**

Inference:

Detail from the picture:

Background Knowledge:

Detail from the picture:

Background Knowledge:

Detail from the picture:

Background Knowledge:

**Now let's put all your information into a written response!  
Use the previous written example to help.**

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