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Inferences

Authors don't always tell readers everything. Readers need to make inferences or read between the lines. In order to infer meaning, active readers must combine the text information with their own knowledge and experiences.

Sometimes, readers rely too heavily on their knowledge and experiences when they make an inference. This often results in a faulty inference.

Read the text about Jeremy's commute to work. Add your own inference.

Text Information	What I know from experience	My Inference
Jeremy drove to work on very icy roads.	Icy roads are dangerous if you drive fast. They slow down traffic a lot.	I think Jeremy drove slowly. I think

How do I answer an inference question?

Step 1

Read a piece of text. Think about your experiences in relation to the text.

Step 2

Make an inference by combining the text information with your experiences.

Step 3

Validate your inference by underlining text information that supports the inference.

Try it out! *Read this paragraph.*

Giant hogweed can grow up to six metres tall and is covered in clusters of white flowers. This plant is a dangerous weed that releases a toxic sap that can harm a person. The toxic sap is found in the leaves, stems, flowers, and roots of giant hogweed. The sap causes deep, painful blisters that form within 48 hours. These blisters can persist for weeks. The blisters can leave scars that last for up to six years. The sap also causes long-term sensitivity to sunlight. Blindness may occur if the sap gets in the eye.

Circle the correct answer. Underline evidence from the text that supports your choice.

A full-grown giant hogweed is probably easy to

A. cut down

B. identify

C. study

D. plant

The answer is B.

The support in the text is Giant hogweed can grow up to six metres tall and is covered in clusters of white flowers.

Drawing Conclusions

In addition to making inferences, active readers draw conclusions as they read.

A conclusion is a decision based on two or more facts in the text.

You try!

Choose the correct conclusion for the paragraph above.

Underline facts that support your answer.

From this paragraph, you can conclude that

A. People need to wear protective clothing if they touch this plant.

B. People need to inform the police if they find this plant near their home.

Sometimes, readers rely too heavily on their knowledge and experiences when they make inferences or draw conclusions. This often results in faulty inferences and conclusions. If you can't find facts in the text to support your answer, you may need to consider the writer's words more closely.

Unit 1: People

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1940, the Athlete of the Century was born in a small town in Brazil.



The King of Soccer

The world's greatest soccer player was raised by loving parents. The parents couldn't afford to buy their son a soccer ball. So the father took an old sock and stuffed it with rags. The father's son ran shoeless through the streets kicking his homemade ball. The son's name was Pelé.

Pelé was spotted by a soccer scout when he was 15 years old. Pelé was asked to join the Santos youth team and he moved to the city. Pelé was very talented. By age 16, he was invited to join Brazil's national soccer team.

In 1958, Brazil was a finalist for the **World Cup** in Sweden. Pelé scored two goals, guiding his team to a 5-2 victory. Pelé fainted when the game ended. When he opened his eyes, everything felt like a dream. It had been only 18 months since he left home, but it felt like years. The 1958 game was the first time Brazil won the World Cup. The people of Brazil danced in the streets.

Pelé helped Brazil's team become one of the best in the world. Pelé and Team Brazil went on to win the 1962 and 1970 World Cups. Pelé is the only person in history to win three World Cups. In 1961, the President of Brazil declared that Pelé was an official national treasure. Pelé retired from soccer in 1977.

World Cup: an international soccer tournament held every four years.

Making Inferences

Read what the author says about Pelé. Make an inference.

Text	My Inference
The father took an old sock and stuffed it with rags.	I think

Circle the correct answer. Provide evidence from the text that supports your choice.

❶ Which word describes Pele's family?

A. poor

B. large

C. brave

D. athletic

Text Evidence:

❷ How old was Pelé when he retired from soccer?

A. 18

B. 21

C. 30

D. 37

Text Evidence:

❸ The people of Brazil danced in the streets to celebrate

A. New Year's Eve.

B. their victory.

C. their national treasure.

D. carnival.

Text Evidence:

Drawing a Conclusion

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Underline the text that supports your choice.

❹ From this passage you can conclude that

A. Brazil is the best soccer team in the world.

B. Pelé is the greatest soccer player of all time.