

MAKING INFERENCES

Crafting Session Tips:

(Zimmerman, Susan and Chryse Hutchins, *7 Keys to Comprehension*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2003.)

- An inference elaborates on what you read as you draw conclusions that go beyond what is on the page.
- Create an inference by connecting your background knowledge with the clues in the text or pictures to form an opinion about what is not clearly stated.
- An inference can be the answer to a question raised as the story is read.
- A sensory image is an inference in picture form.
- Inferring involves thinking ahead about what could happen next. You make predictions and then confirm or reject them.
- You infer when you make educated guesses about what's going on in your reading.
- Infer the meaning of unknown words by using the context of the sentence and the clues in the picture to figure out what would make the most sense.
- An inference is a personal discovery about what the author didn't quite specifically write.
- Feeling empathy for character, laughing at a joke, discovering an answer to a riddle, getting a sense about the setting of a story, reacting to facts, and solving a mystery are all part of inferential thinking.

Suggested Rubric:

(Harvey, Stephanie and Anne Goudvis, *The Comprehension Toolkit*. Portsmouth: FirstHand Heinemann, 2005.)

| Oral and/or Written Evidence | Strong Evidence 3 | Some Evidence 2 | Little Evidence 1 |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Uses context to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words and concepts | | | |
| Merges background knowledge with text clues to draw conclusions | | | |
| Uses inferring to interpret the deeper meaning of language | | | |
| Uses inferring & visualizing to gain meaning from text features and visuals | | | |
| Uses text evidence to infer the answers to questions | | | |
| Uses text evidence to infer big ideas and themes | | | |