

Reading Skills: Making Inferences **Reinforcement 2-10**

Remember that making **inferences** means combining clues from what you read from a text with clues from what you know. Together, these clues can help you make a reasonable guess about what a writer means or about what will happen in a text.

Read this excerpt from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett and answer the questions.

[Mary] had a little thin face and a little thin body, thin light hair and a sour expression. Her hair was yellow, and her face was yellow because she had been born in India and had always been ill in one way or another. Her father had held a position under the English Government and had always been busy and ill himself, and her mother had been a great beauty who cared only to go to parties and amuse herself. . . . [W]hen Mary was born she handed her over to the care of an Ayah, who was made to understand that . . . she must keep the child out of sight as much as possible. So when she was a sickly, fretful, ugly little baby she was kept out of the way, and when she became a sickly, fretful, toddling thing she was kept out of the way also.

1. Why is Mary's skin yellow? What link does the text suggest between living in India and the color of Mary's skin?

2. What is not stated about Mary's mother?

3. What can you conclude about Mary's relationship with her father? How can you tell?

4. Read the last sentence from the excerpt. What inference can you make about Mary's life when she gets older? How can you tell?

Apply Complete the chart to make an inference about the main character and her mother.

Text Clues	Background Clues	Inference
Mary's mother loved parties; handed Mary over to Ayah	Parenting takes a lot of time and energy; People spend time doing what they care about.	

Inference Practice:

Where Am I?

Name: _____

Read each passage below. Write where you think the passage is happening and explain your answer.

1. As I walked in the door, I was amazed at the beautiful colors and smells. I knew it would be hard to decide what I would buy with my \$3. The chocolate truffles looked delicious, but they were expensive. The jelly beans were not only cheaper, but so colorful! With so much to choose from, I knew I would be here a long time.

2. The water felt so good on such a hot day. I heard the other children laughing and yelling across the way. The concrete was wet from a group of teenagers splashing each other in the corner. The lifeguard watched closely to keep children from running.

3. I was allowed to push the cart. The front left wheel was broken, so the cart wobbled down each aisle. Mother put various packages and boxes in the cart, but I didn't notice. I was trying to keep the cart going straight as it got heavier and heavier.

4. As we entered, a large blast of water hit the windshield. Huge flopping sponges began to slap at the hood as we slowly moved forward. Soon, there were suds spilling over the sides. I was glad the windows were rolled up!

5. It felt wonderful to be outside, even if only for a little while! All the swings were already taken, and a group was playing softball on the diamond. Casey and I decided use the monkey bars until the teacher called us.
