

Reading Skills

Making Inferences

Objectives:

- ❑ To use academic vocabulary when making inferences.
 - ❑ To mark reading passages to identify information useful for making inferences.
 - ❑ To combine text information and background knowledge to make inferences.
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Read and answer:

- As she came out of the principal's office, Shelly was pale, her eyes were wide with shock, and she had been crying.
 - What did you learn about Shelly?
 - What conclusions did you draw based on LOGICAL facts?
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Read and answer:

- Anders invited his music teacher, Mr. Hodge, to a concert for an orchestra he knew was a favorite of Mr. Hodge's.
 - What did you learn about Anders and Mr. Hodge?
 - What conclusions did you draw based on LOGICAL facts?
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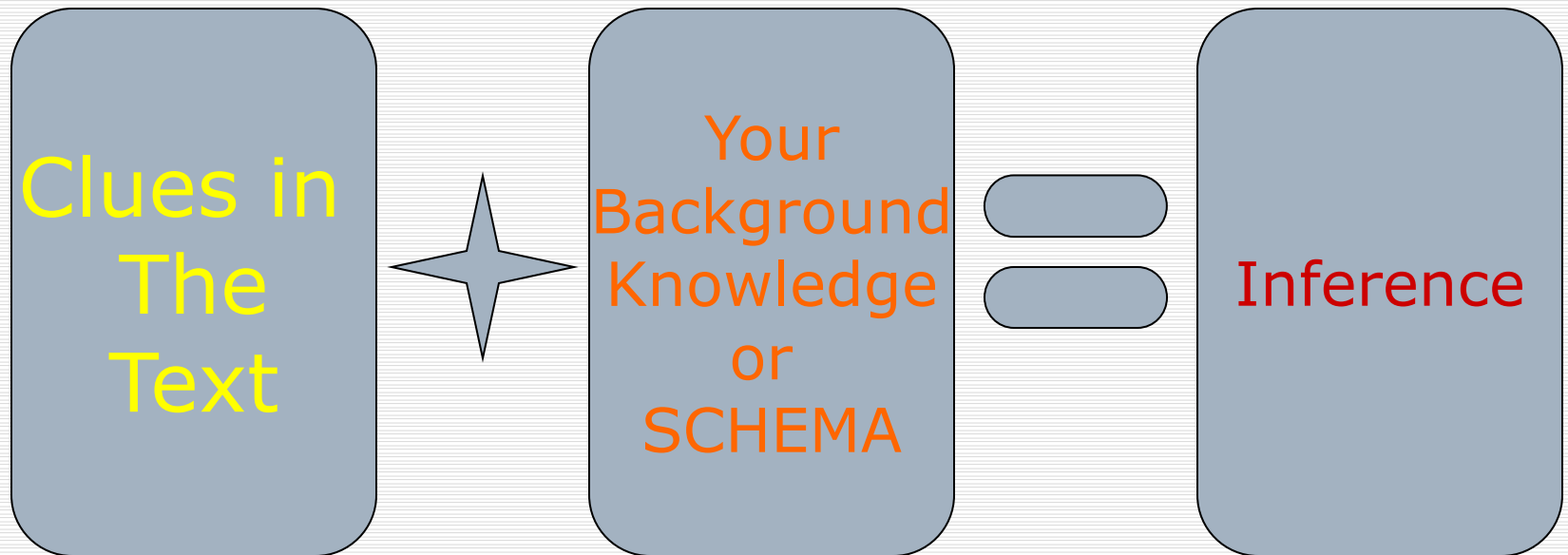
Inferences:

- ❑ Inferences are reasonable conclusions a person can form based on the evidence provided.
 - ❑ When you make an inference you make an assumption based on the information provided and what you already know.
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Academic Vocabulary:

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
Infer v. Related words: Inferred, inference	To draw conclusions based on facts	Example: I inferred from her frown that she was unhappy. YOUR EXAMPLE:
Assume v. Related words: Assumed, assumption	To suppose something to be a fact	Example: We can assume that our class will start when the bell rings. YOUR EXAMPLE:
Conclude v. Related words: concluded, conclusion	To decide by reasoning	Example: After hearing his argument, I concluded that he was right. YOUR EXAMPLE:

Process for making INFERENCES:



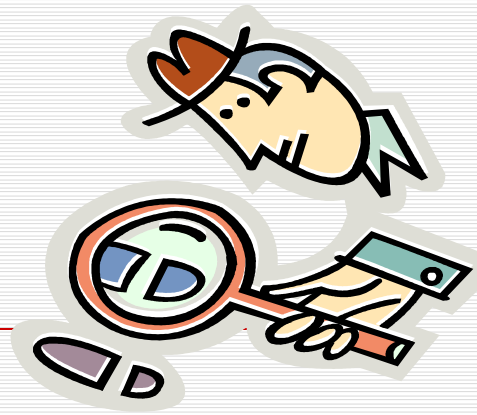
Inference

Inference can be used in several ways to help you respond fully to a piece of reading.

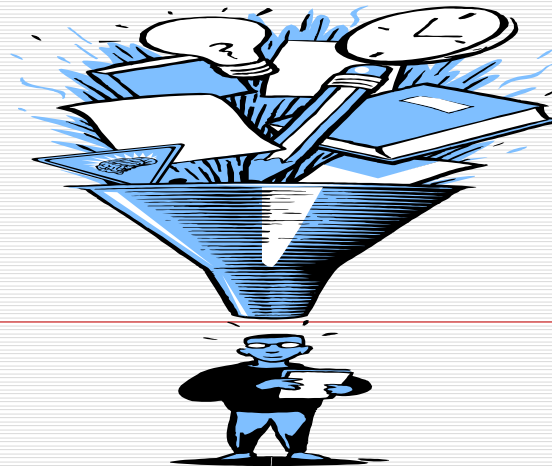
- You can infer a general fact or a precise piece of information.
- You can infer emotions and feelings of characters in passage.
- You can infer information about the author - his/her opinions, feelings, point of view.



To infer successfully you can:



- Work out the answer from clues or references in the text.
- Work out the answer from the **connotations** of words used in text.
- Match something in the text to your own understanding, experience or knowledge to come up with the correct answer.



Inferring means to take what you know and make a guess. Read the following situations and pick which answer you could infer.

If your best friend is not in school one day, you could infer that:

- They are out sick or on vacation.
- They are never coming back.
- They moved to a new state.
- They went to the wrong school by mistake.



If you see someone holding an umbrella, what can you infer:

- It might rain.
- They hurt themselves.
- They live in California.
- Today is Sunday.



If your electricity goes out, you can infer that:

- A tree fell on the power lines.
- You will never have lights again.
- Your water will be off too.
- Something happened to the power.



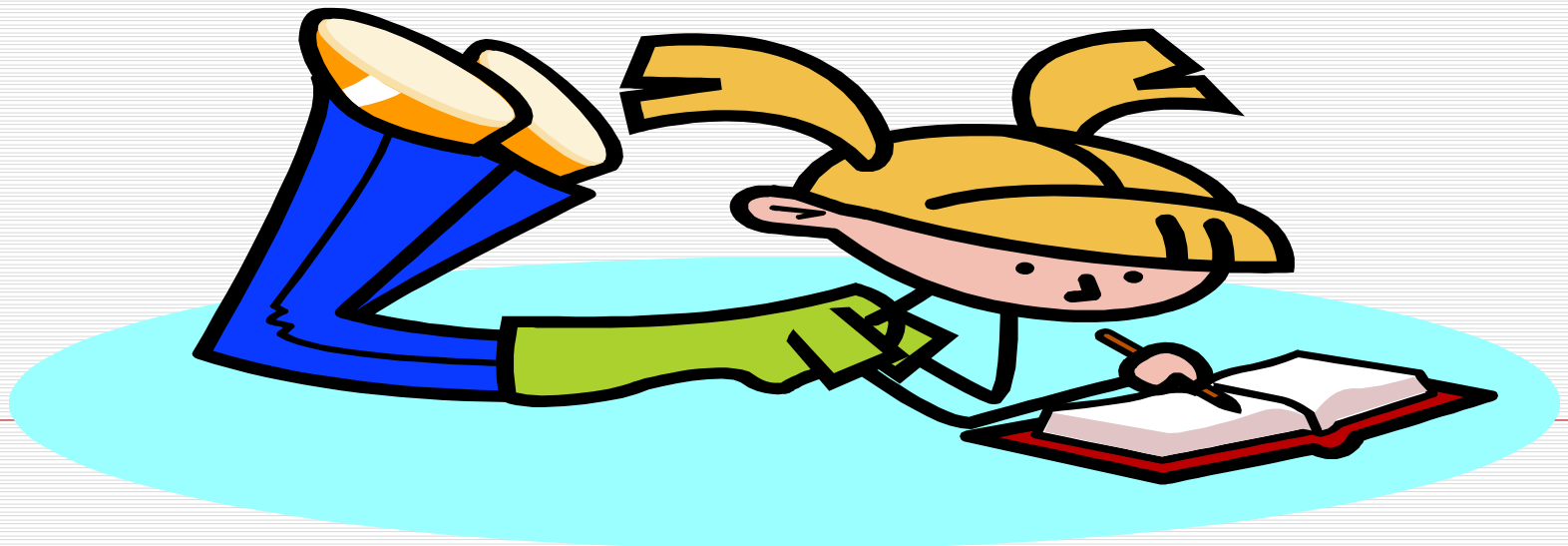
If a sign in front of a house reads, “For Rent”, you can infer that:

- The house is no good to live in.
- The house comes with furniture inside.
- The house is brand new.
- The house needs new occupants.



If you forget to study for a test, you can infer that:

- The teacher will let you take it tomorrow.
- You might not do well.
- You will be better off than if you had studied.
- The teacher will send you to the principal's office.



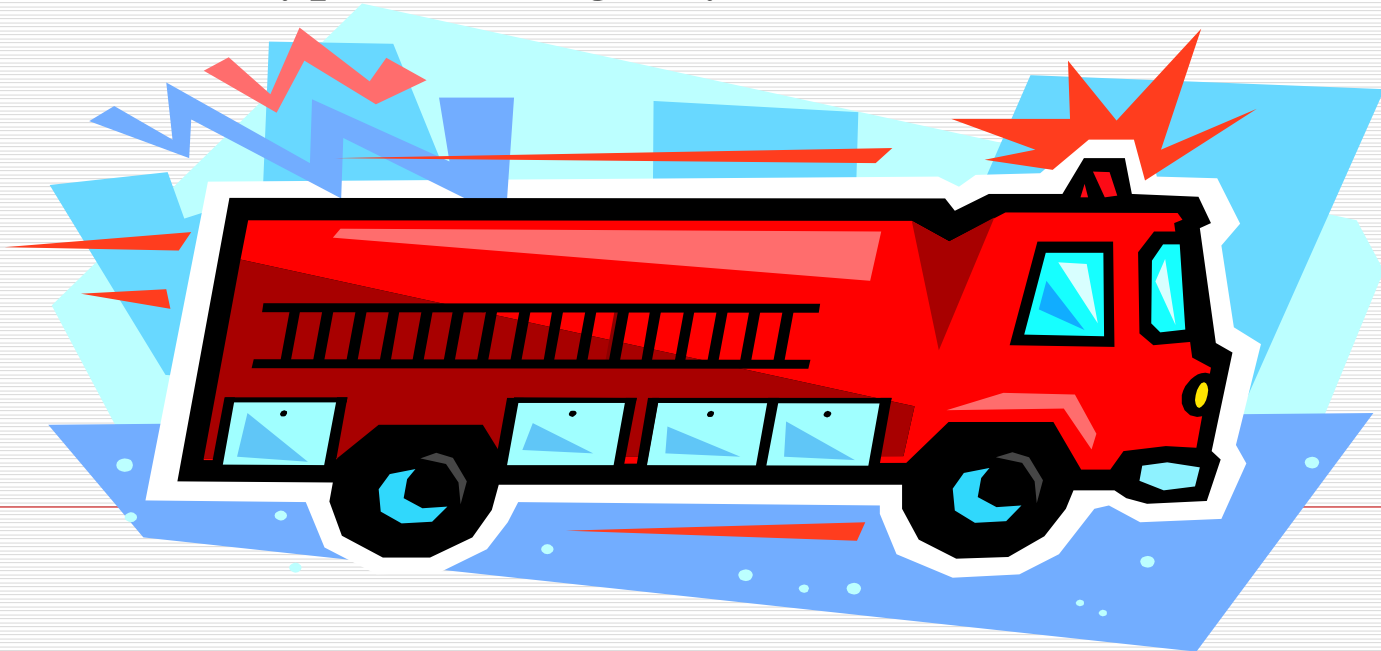
If your teacher is out of school today, you can infer that:

- You won't have any homework.
- The substitute teacher will be mean.
- The rules don't apply for today.
- The teacher is either sick or out of town.



If you see a fire engine on your street, you can infer that:

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- A cat is in a tree.
 - A neighbor accidentally burned himself in the kitchen.
 - The police will show up too.
 - Someone had a type of emergency.



If you see someone with a cast on his leg, you can infer that:

- He will have a cast on his arm too.
- He broke his leg.
- He fell off of a horse.
- He will have to wear the cast for six months.



If you get fired from your job, you can infer that:

- You might get a raise.
- You did something wrong.
- You will never get another job again.
- You were the best worker.



If you forget to return your library book, you can infer that:

- You will have to pay a fine.
- They will take away your library card.
- The library must be closed.
- It was a rainy day.



Schema

- ❑ Your schema is what you already know about a topic
- ❑ Think about a schema as a file folder in your mind



Activating Your Schema

- When you start to read a text, you need to open up the file folder about the topic
- This is called “activating your schema”



Help Me Make an Inference!

3.



".... AND THE DARN ANTS KEPT CARRYING THEM AWAY, CRUMB BY CRUMB, UNTIL THEY WERE ALL GONE. THAT'S MY OPINION."

More Questions...

- Did you use words, graphs, or picture clues to help you make a guess about what that cartoon meant?
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Try Again!

- Can he draw more than tigers?
- Look up words you don't know!



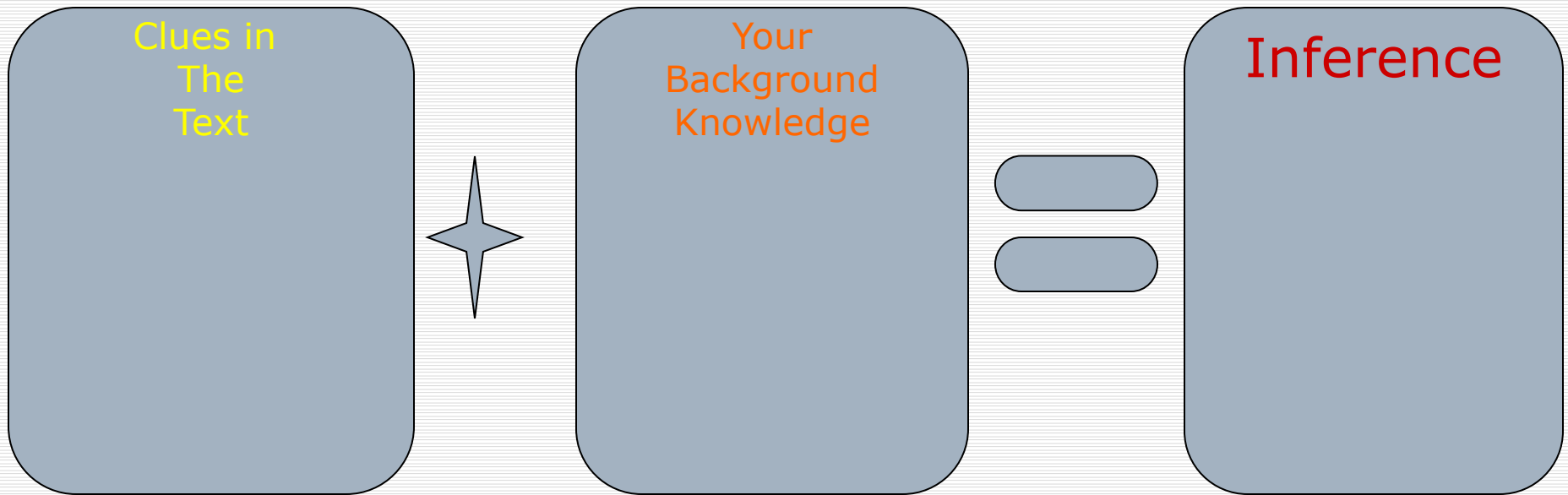
How Do Good Readers Make Inferences?

- They use:
 1. Word/text clues
 2. Picture clues
 3. Define unknown words
 4. Look for emotion (feelings)
 5. Use what they already know
 6. Look for explanations for events
 7. ASK themselves questions!
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Make Another Inference

- ❑ Miss White has recess duty. Jacob finds a frog, picks it up, and runs over to show it to Miss White. Miss White screams, jumps, and runs as fast as she can into the school.
 - ❑ What can you infer from this passage?
 - ❑ What are the “clues” in this passage?
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Create this Chart:



Read and make an inference:

From "The Jacket" by Gary Soto ©

When I needed a new jacket and my mother asked what kind I wanted, I described something like bikers wear: black leather and silver studs with enough belts to hold down a small town. We were in the kitchen, steam on the windows from her cooking. She listened so long while stirring dinner that I thought she understood for sure the kind I wanted. The next day when I got home from school, I discovered draped on my bedpost a jacket the color of day-old guacamole. I threw my books on the bed and approached the jacket slowly, as if it were a stranger whose hand I had to shake. I touched the vinyl sleeve, the collar, and peeked at the mustard colored lining.
