

25th November 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

YEAR FOUR: MAKING INFERENCES: PARENT INFORMATION

Inference is an important part of reading in KS2 and is taught to all children. This begins in the lower school and increases in difficulty by the time the children get to the upper school. Inference has close links with real life experiences and the approach of 'thinking outside the box'.

Across the year we will be spending time on this and any input from home would be extremely beneficial.

So, what is inference? Please see below for more detailed information and how you can help your child begin to make inferences when reading.

What does it mean to make inferences (or to infer) when reading?

When a reader makes an inference, he or she is taking clues from the text and combining them with his/her own experiences or knowledge to draw a conclusion. Another way to think of it is that you are 'reading between the lines' when you infer.

Predictions, conclusions and new ideas are all forms of inference.

Why is it an important skill?

Being able to make inferences while reading is an important skill for many reasons.

First, when a reader infers they are making connections to the text – either through personal experiences or prior knowledge.

Either way, when readers make connections they are more likely to remember and understand what they read.

In addition, making inferences is one way that readers think critically about texts. They are constantly checking their own understanding as they read, and will pick up on details that are not explicitly stated.

How can I encourage my child to make inferences?

The exact inferences your child makes will depend on the book he/she is reading. However, here are some ideas for questions to ask that will encourage your child to think more deeply about a text.

Fiction books:

- What was the most important part of the story? Why do you think that?
- What kind of person is [name of character]? How do you know?
- What lesson did the character learn?
- How did the character change in this story?
- How is [name of character] similar to [another character]? How are they different?

Non-fiction books:

- What can you learn from the picture that isn't in the words?
- What is the author's opinion on the topic?
- What questions do you still have about the topic?
- Read the heading. What do you think you will read about in this section?
- What is the main idea of this section? What is it mostly about?

Some links to help you at home with inference:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs44jxs/articles/zqmyw6f>

<https://www.onceuponapicture.co.uk/the-collections/the-inference-collection/>

Kind regards,

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