

READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

INFERRING



Why Do We Read?

Being able to read is an extremely useful skill to have. For many people, it is one of life's pleasures. But what is the purpose of reading?

- We might read a text to **gather information** about a topic or idea.
- We might read a text to **learn how to do or make** something.
- We might read a text to **understand the opinions** of others.
- We might read a text to **be entertained**.

In all of these situations, the reader must be able to decode the words on the page, then create meaning from them.



Reading Comprehension Strategies

The goal of reading any text is to create meaning. Without meaning, a text is nothing more than a series of words on a page!

Reading can be a frustrating and unenjoyable process when we don't understand the meaning of a text.

Reading comprehension strategies are tools that readers can use while reading to help them comprehend (understand) a text.

These strategies can help readers to stay engaged with a text and gain greater enjoyment while reading.



Inferring

Inferring means using clues from a text to form a theory or come to a conclusion about characters, events or information.

Writers do not always include every detail about an event or character in a text. They expect readers to use their knowledge in conjunction with the clues to 'read between the lines' to create meaning.

e.g. *Sam's body began to shake. His heart pumped faster and faster.*

In this example, the reader can use their prior knowledge about emotions with the clues in the text to come to the conclusion that Sam is feeling anxious (even though this isn't directly stated).



How to Infer

While you are reading, ask yourself the following questions to help you make inferences about the text:

- What prior knowledge do I have about what is happening?
- What clues does the text provide about what is happening?
- How can I use clues to form a theory about the text?
- What conclusions can I make about the text?
- What information can I gather by ‘reading between the lines’?



Using the Strategy - Activity

As a class, you are going to read the beginning of a narrative text called *The Case of the Missing Cookie*.

In this text, the narrator has returned to the kitchen after answering the front door to discover that their chocolate-chip cookie is missing!

While you are reading, listen for the clues provided in the text which could help you form a theory about what might have happened.

After reading, use the clues you have gathered and your own prior knowledge to come to a conclusion about how the chocolate-chip cookie went missing.



The Case of the Missing Cookie

It was 3:23 pm when the delicious chocolate-chip cookie went missing. I know the exact time because the delivery man came to the door. The cookie was sitting on a plate on the kitchen bench when I walked out to answer the door. By the time I came back, it was gone!

I was distraught! I decided to search the kitchen for clues to find out who stole my scrumptious cookie.

As I was looking around the kitchen, I found some short brown hairs down by the bottom of the bench. They were just below where my cookie had been sitting!



The Case of the Missing Cookie

I continued to search further. Around the corner, in the hall, there was a tennis ball on the floor. It had chocolate-chip cookie crumbs on it! Who would have left cookie crumbs on a tennis ball?

I bent down to inspect the floor around the ball. There was a trail of muddy paw prints leading toward the back door... which was open! The crumbs continued down the back stairs and onto the grass in the yard.

I followed the trail. Then, I saw...



The Case of the Missing Cookie

Complete the table below.

Clues From the Text	Conclusion About the Event



Independent Reading

- Now do some independent reading for 20 minutes.
- Either your own book or one from active learn.

