Making Inferences

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Objective

- Use story details
- Life experiences
- Prior knowledge

- To make inferences about a character (feelings) and events.
Author’s do not explain everything in a story.

- Readers use **story clues**.
  - They use details about what they’ve read to make an inference.

- Readers use **prior knowledge**.
  - They make “text to text” connections.

- Readers use their own **personal experience**.
  - They make “text to self” connections.

- The combination of these strategies allow readers to make inferences (reasonable guesses) about characters and events.
Jake Tries to Catch a Fish

Jake stood on the riverbank. He cast his fishing pole into the deep water. He had been trying to catch a fish for many hours. Alex and Zach laughed as they watched Jake throw the line into the water one more time.
What kind of person is Jake?

- Patient
- Hard working

Jake stood on the riverbank. He cast his fishing into the deep water. He had been trying to catch a fish for many hours. Alex and Zach laughed as the watched Jake throw the line into the water one more.
How do you think Alex and Zach feel about Jake’s efforts to catch a fish?

- He is wasting his time.
- He won’t catch a fish.

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The bus driver pulled out of the station. Jim’s heart beat fast. He had never traveled alone. He waved good-bye to his grandparents. “The bus will be in Tucson in two hours,” Jim told himself. He checked his watch. Jim pictured his father waiting for the bus in Tucson. “Two hours will be over in no time,” Jim said.
How does Jim feel?

- Worried
- Scared
- Alone

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What story clues helped you figure out how Jim feels?

• His heart beat fast.
• He had never traveled alone.

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What personal experience or prior knowledge helped you figure out how Jim feels?

- **Text to Self**
  The bus driver pulled out of the station. Jim’s heart beat fast. He had never traveled alone. He waved good-bye to his grandparents. “The bus will be in Tucson in two hours,” Jim told himself. He checked his watch. Jim pictured his father waiting for the bus in Tucson. “Two hours will be over in no time,” Jim said.

- **Text to Text**
Annie’s teeth chattered. Her knees shook. Her voice trembled as she said, “I can’t stay out here! I’m going inside.”
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What are the three strategies you can use to make inferences?

• Story Clues
• Personal Experience
  – Text to Self
• Prior Knowledge
  – Text to Text
And sometimes a picture