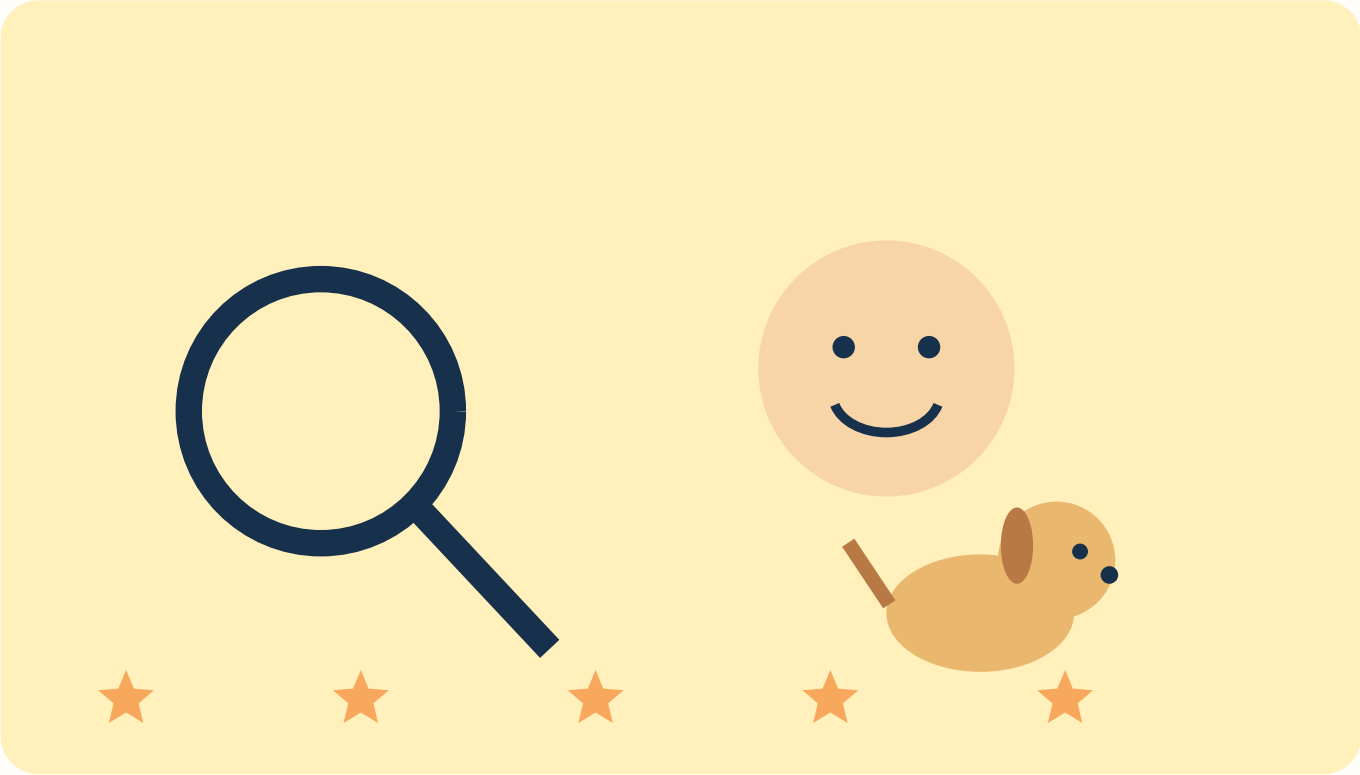
SORO ENGLISH

Making Inferences for Kids

STORY DETECTIVE PRACTICE WORKBOOK



5 short stories | Picture clues | Mini mysteries

Think + Find Evidence + Explain + Create

Name: _____

Date: _____

Small Steps. Strong Readers.

Welcome, Story Detective!

Your mission: use clues to figure things out.

An inference is a smart idea based on clues. A good detective does not just guess!

CLUES

TEXT CLUES + WHAT I ALREADY KNOW = MY INFERENCE

Our detective steps

1 NOTICE	What do I see or read?
2 THINK	What do I already know?
3 INFER	What probably happened?
4 PROVE	Which clues support my idea?

Inference or Wild Guess?

Circle the idea supported by clues.

Lily takes her umbrella. Dark clouds cover the sky. She puts on her rain boots.



1. Which idea is a good inference?

A. It might rain soon.

B. A dragon will visit Lily.

2. Underline TWO clues in the story.

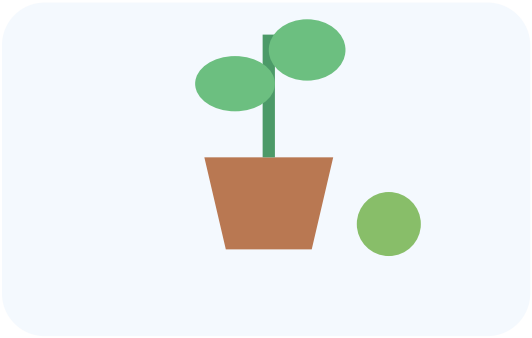
3. Finish: I think it might rain because...

Detective tip: An inference is supported by evidence. A wild guess is not.

Picture Clue Detective

Look carefully. What might have happened?

Imagine: a flowerpot is tipped over. Soil is on the floor. A soccer ball is beside the pot. A boy looks surprised.



1. What probably happened?

2. How does the boy probably feel? Why?

3. List two clues that support your idea.

Try saying: I think _____ because _____.

Case 1: The Missing Cupcake

What happened?

Mom puts four cupcakes on the kitchen table. Then she goes upstairs. When she comes back, there are only three cupcakes. Jake is sitting on the sofa. There is pink frosting on his nose. Jake looks at the floor.

1. How many cupcakes are left?

2. Who probably ate the missing cupcake?

3. What clues support your answer?

4. How might Jake feel? Why?

5. What should Jake do next?

Case 2: The Surprise Box

How does she feel?

Ella walks into the living room. Everyone becomes quiet. Dad is holding a big box. Mom is smiling. Colorful balloons are near the window. Ella looks at the calendar. It is her birthday!

1. What special day is it?

2. What might be inside the box?

3. How does Ella probably feel?

4. Name two clues that something special is happening.

5. What surprise would you plan for someone?

Case 3: The Wet Floor

Can we know for sure?

Oliver walks into the bathroom. The floor is wet. A towel lies beside the bathtub. His little sister stands near the sink. There are drops of water on her shirt. "What happened here?" Oliver asks.

1. Where does the story happen?

2. What might have caused the wet floor?

3. Find two clues that support your idea.

4. Can we know exactly what happened? Explain.

5. What could Oliver ask to find out?

Case 4: The Quiet Playground

Feelings can be clues.

Ben stands beside the swings. Other children are playing together. Ben watches them. He takes one small step forward, then stops. He looks down at his shoes. A girl walks over. "Do you want to play?" she asks. Ben smiles. "Yes, please."

1. Where is Ben?

2. How might Ben feel at the beginning?

3. What clues support your answer?

4. How does his feeling change at the end?

5. What kind words could you say to Ben?

Case 5: The Garden Mystery

Use what you know.

Every morning, Grandpa checks his garden. One day, he notices missing lettuce leaves. There are small holes in other leaves. Grandpa bends down. A little green caterpillar rests under a leaf. "Well, hello there," Grandpa says.

1. What is missing from the garden?

2. What probably made the holes in the leaves?

3. Which clues helped you decide?

4. Do we know for certain? Explain.

5. What might Grandpa do next?

Evidence Hunt

Return to the story and underline the clues.

Match each idea to the evidence that supports it.

1. Jake may have eaten a cupcake.

Evidence: Pink frosting is on his nose.

2. Ben may feel nervous.

Evidence: He stops and looks at his shoes.

3. A caterpillar may have eaten lettuce.

Evidence: A caterpillar is under a leaf with holes.

4. Ella may feel excited.

Evidence: It is her birthday; her family has balloons.

5. Which clue from any story was your favorite?

Feelings Detective

Characters do not always name their feelings.



Mia jumps up and claps.

I infer: _____



Sam looks down and becomes quiet.

I infer: _____



Ava takes a deep breath before her test.

I infer: _____



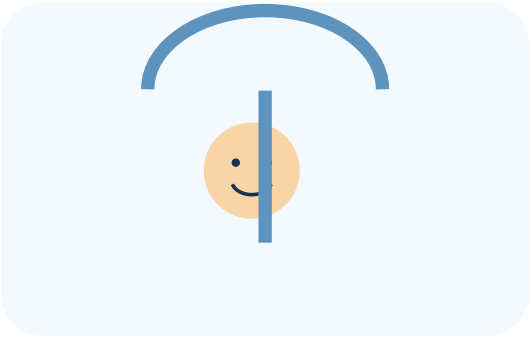
Leo smiles when his friend arrives.

I infer: _____

What Happens Next?

Make a prediction using clues.

Dark clouds cover the park. Wind lifts the corner of Mia's picnic blanket. A drop of water lands on her hand.



1. What might happen next?

2. What TWO clues support your prediction?

3. What could Mia do next?

Predictions are not promises. They are ideas based on clues.

Mystery Bag Challenge

Use three clues to solve each mystery.

Mystery 1: I am round. You can kick me. I bounce.

My inference: _____

Best clue: _____



Mystery 2: I have pages. You can read me. I tell stories.

My inference: _____

Best clue: _____



Mystery 3: I am small. I grow in soil. I need water.

My inference: _____

Best clue: _____



Create Your Own Mystery

Write clues, then ask someone to solve it!

Choose a secret answer. Do not write it in your story! Give three clues so another detective can figure it out.

CLUES

1. Clue 1:

2. Clue 2:

3. Clue 3:

4. My detective partner inferred:

My Inference Think Sheet

Use this page with any book or story.

1 NOTICE

What does the story tell me?

2 KNOW

What do I already know?

3 INFER

What do I think happened or why?

4 PROVE

Which clues support my idea?

My Story Detective Passport

Color a star each time you complete a mission!

- ☆ I noticed a clue.
- ☆ I found a detail.
- ☆ I made an inference.
- ☆ I explained with because.
- ☆ I thought about feelings.
- ☆ I made a prediction.
- ☆ I looked back at the text.
- ☆ I changed my mind after checking.
- ☆ I solved a mini mystery.
- ☆ I made my own mystery.

Parent & Teacher Guide

How to make the most of these activities.

Who is it for?

Beginning readers who can read short stories, and younger children working with an adult. Read passages aloud when decoding is difficult.

A 10-minute routine

1. Read together. 2. Ask what happened. 3. Ask one inference question. 4. Find a clue. 5. Finish with: "I think ... because ..."

What counts as a good answer?

Look for a reasonable idea supported by clues. Some questions have several possible answers. Encourage children to explain, not just guess.

Helpful prompts

"What did you notice?" "Which words helped you?" "Could there be another explanation?" "Do we know for sure?"

When your child gets stuck

Offer two possible ideas, reread one sentence, or point to the picture. Praise the reasoning process rather than speed.

Gentle reminder

An inference is not a proven fact. Teach children to say "probably," "might," and "I think" when the text leaves uncertainty.

Answer Key: Cases 1-3

Suggested answers; accept well-supported alternatives.

Case 1: The Missing Cupcake

1. Three.
2. Probably Jake.
3. Frosting on his nose; he looks down.
4. Possibly nervous or guilty; he avoids eye contact.
5. Tell the truth / apologize (opinions vary).

Case 2: The Surprise Box

1. Ella's birthday.
2. A birthday gift is possible; exact contents unknown.
3. Happy, surprised, or excited.
4. Balloons, smiles, box, family becomes quiet.
5. Personal response.

Case 3: The Wet Floor

1. Bathroom.
2. Water may have splashed from sink or tub.
3. Wet floor, towel, drops on shirt.
4. No; several causes are possible.
5. Ask his sister what happened.

Answer Key: Cases 4-5

Plus the extra detective challenges.

Case 4: The Quiet Playground

1. Beside the swings.
2. Shy, nervous, or unsure.
3. Stops, watches, looks at his shoes.
4. He seems happier or more comfortable.
5. Personal response.

Case 5: The Garden Mystery

1. Lettuce leaves.
2. Possibly a caterpillar.
3. Holes in leaves; caterpillar under a leaf.
4. Not certain this caterpillar caused all holes.
5. Observe, move caterpillar, or protect plants.

Other pages

Inference vs. guessing: A; umbrella, clouds, boots.
Picture clues: ball may have knocked over pot.
Prediction: rain or packing up; clouds, wind, drops.
Mystery bags: ball, book, seed.
Feelings: excited, sad/shy, nervous, happy.

STORY DETECTIVE CERTIFICATE

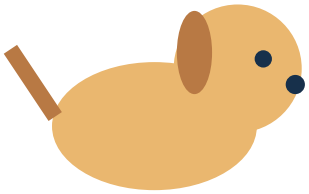
This certificate is awarded to

_____

for reading carefully, finding clues,

thinking deeply, and explaining ideas!





Date: _____

Signed: _____

Small Steps. Strong Readers.