

COMMON CORE BACKPACK

Reading Detective

4th Grade - English Language Arts - Reading Literature 4.1

| Common Core Standard | Basically this means your child can.... |
|---|---|
| RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when inferences from the text. | Explain a story by referring to details and examples in the text. |

Background Information:

Inference means using clues in the text to make reasonable guesses about something that wasn't directly explained in the text.

How do you make an inference? First, look for all the facts and clues in the text. Second, think about what you already know. Then you can make a reasonable guess about what is happening in the text.

Example: With clippers in one hand and scissors in the other, Chris was ready to begin the task. He put a cape over the small child.

1. **What can you infer from this?** The child is preparing to get a haircut at the barbershop.
2. **What words helped you to infer?** Clippers, scissors, cape over the small child
3. **What do you know in your head that helped you to infer?** I know that when people go to get their haircut, the barber may use scissors, clippers, and a cape to cut the person's hair.
4. **Use this sentence frame to help your child practice making inferences:**
I can infer that the child is preparing to get a haircut at the barbershop because when people go to get their haircut, the barber may use scissors, clippers, and a cape to cut the person's hair.

Activity:

1. Select a picture in a book or magazine that your child has not read. Have them make inferences about the picture.
2. For example, look at the picture provided here. Ask your child what is happening in this picture. How do you know?
3. Your child should answer, " I can infer _____ because _____."
4. Once your child gets good at doing this with pictures, have them make inferences while they are reading books at their grade level. Again, they should say, " I can infer _____ because it says



_____ in the text.”

Extension:

1. In this activity, your child will practice making inferences (reasonable guesses) and finding clues in the text to support their inferences.
2. Help your child pick a book to read. Make sure the book is not too easy, and not too hard.
3. Have your child decide whether to focus on a character or an event for this activity. For example, if they are reading *The Three Little Pigs*, they may choose to focus on the Wolf as a character. They can also choose to focus on an event - the Pigs building their houses.

Wolf

| Inferences | Clues |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| The wolf does not have any friends. | He was mean, had sharp teeth, he tried to destroy people's houses. |

4. Fold a piece of paper in half to create two columns. Write the word "Inferences" on one side of the paper and the word "Clues" on the other side of the paper.
5. As your child is reading, have them make inferences (reasonable guesses about a specific character or event in a text based on clues from the text) and place them in the "Inferences" column. As they find clues that support their inferences, have them write them down in the "Clues" column.

What you need (materials):

- Book or magazine at your child's reading level. Ask your child's teacher to help with book selections.
- Paper and pencil