

# PARENT HANDOUT: Inferential Comprehension

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There are **2 ways to comprehend** or understand language:



Literal comprehension  
(WH questions)  
*the information is stated  
right in the story or message*

*We use the words and  
pictures we read or hear from  
the story to get the answers*

**EASIER!**



Inferential Comprehension  
*the information is not  
stated right in the story or message.  
We think about our own background  
knowledge and use it to help us understand.  
We use our own experiences to relate  
to the story or situation and “connect”  
our experiences with that of the book to understand*

**HARDER!**

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**What is INFERENCING? What are some examples of inferences?**

- Location Inference: where the story takes place is described only.  
*“While we roared down the tracks, we could feel the bounce and sway.”*
- Time Inference: when the story takes place is described only.  
*“When the porch light burned out, there was total darkness.”*
- Feeling-Attitude: understanding the character’s feelings and opinions  
*“He could feel the heat rising to his face and his cheeks were burning as he stared at the class.”*
- Cause-effect: one action results in another; answering “Why” questions.  
*“Why did Darla wait 2 days to report the crime to the police?”*
- Theme: the big idea the story is about. What did the author want readers to learn?
- Predictions: What will happen next? What if.....?,

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There are **2 contexts** where we learn to inference:



Auditory/Visual  
*This is while we look at pictures  
or listen to a story/passage someone  
is reading TO us.*

*Speech-Language service targets  
this area many times – it relates  
to auditory processing of information  
and critical thinking.*

**EASIER TO LEARN – and you**



Reading  
*This is when WE are doing  
the reading ourselves!*

*Academic service targets  
this area – combines the  
decoding and reading of  
text with inferential comprehension*

**MORE ADVANCED TO LEARN -**

LEARN THIS FIRST!

You build on skills learned in the first section by adding another process of reading the text . Using more brain power!