

SMART™ Lesson

Inferring Meaning

When we read, we use our background knowledge and clues in the text to make inferences. We use these inferences to understand things that are not directly stated in the text.

Clues in the Text

Authors often use clues in the text to help readers make inferences. For example, if an author describes a character as grumpy and mean, we can infer that the character is not very friendly.

Background Knowledge

Background knowledge is what we already know about the world. When we use our background knowledge along with clues in the text, we can make inferences. For example, if we read a story about a girl swimming, and we know that it is winter, we can infer that the girl is probably swimming inside a swimming pool, not in a lake or river outside.

Practice

Read the following paragraph, and answer the questions below:

Joey was walking home from school. He noticed that the sky was getting dark and cloudy. Joey quickened his pace, hoping to make it home before it started raining. Suddenly, he felt a few drops of rain on his head. By the time he got home, it was pouring outside.

1. What was Joey doing?
2. Why did Joey quicken his pace?
3. What happened to Joey by the time he got home?

Answers

1. Joey was walking home from school.
2. Joey quickened his pace because he noticed that the sky was getting dark and cloudy.
3. By the time Joey got home, it was pouring outside.

