

# SMART™ Lesson

## Reading and Understanding: Drawing Conclusions

When we read a story, sometimes the writer doesn't tell us everything. We have to read between the lines and make our own conclusions about what is happening. Here are some tips to help you draw conclusions when you read:

### 1. Use Context Clues

Clues in the text can help you make an educated guess about what is happening. Look for clues like descriptive adjectives or adverbs that give you a hint about someone or something's behavior or appearance. Words with unclear or several different meanings, like homophones or homonyms, can also indicate implied meaning that can guide you to a conclusion.

Example: The man looked worried as he clutched his phone. It was late, and he had missed the last train. We can conclude that the man is probably trying to figure out how to get home.

### 2. Analyze Characters' Actions and Dialogue

Characters' actions and dialogue can be a great way to determine their motives and feelings. Think about why they might say what they do or act the way they do. This can help you form a conclusion about the story.

Example: "I hate turtles," said the boy as he kicked the shell lying in front of him. We can conclude that the boy might have had a bad experience with a turtle or another emotional issue that's causing him to behave this way.

### 3. Consider the Background

Think about the characters' circumstances, where the story takes place, and the time period. This can help you understand the meaning of the story and draw conclusions.

Example: In a story about a gold rush, a character may leave the beginning of the story with nothing and at the end of the story with a fortune. You can conclude that the gold rush had a significant impact on the character's life.

## Conclusion Drawing Worksheet

1. What are some descriptive adjectives or adverbs that can be helpful in drawing conclusions?

2. Give an example of a sentence that implies an action but doesn't explicitly say what it is.

3. What is something you can consider when drawing a conclusion about a story's background?