

# SMART™ Lesson

## Making Inferences in Nonfiction

When we read nonfiction, we often have to use clues in the text to figure out things that are not directly stated. This is called making inferences.

### Identifying Clues

Clues can come in different forms.

- Descriptions
- Examples
- Comparisons
- Appearance or facial expressions

For instance, if you're reading a book about a whale, the author may use words such as "hundred feet long," "blubber," "flukes," "baleen," and "ocean," which all help you infer that the book is about a whale.

### Practicing Inference-Making

Read the following sentences and use the clues in them to answer the questions that follow:

The leaves on the trees are turning orange and red. The weather is getting cooler, and you can see your breath when you breathe outside.

1. What season is it?
2. What is happening to the leaves on the trees?
3. What happens to your breath when you breathe outside?

### Conclusion

Making inferences is an important reading skill that helps us deepen our understanding of nonfiction texts. By identifying clues in the text, we can figure out things that are not explicitly stated and make sense of what we read.