

SMART™ Lesson

Mystery and Suspense: Making Inferences

Introduction: In literature, mystery and suspense genres are all about keeping the readers engaged and guessing what the outcome could be. While reading a mystery or suspense story, readers make inferences to try and predict what may happen next based on the text's clues.

What are Inferences? Inferences are conclusions that are drawn based on evidence and reasoning, rather than directly stated in the text. They are the reader's interpretation of the story or text.

How to make inferences: Inferences are made by combining information given in a text with a reader's personal background information to arrive at a conclusion.

Practice Activity:

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions below:

There was a window broken at number 16, said the sergeant. That's what started them. They thought someone had been hurt. Then - " He hesitated for a moment. "-then they saw him."

1. What do the sergeant and the others think may have happened at number 16?
2. Who do you think the "he" is that the sergeant mentions?
3. What do you think may have happened to the "he" the sergeant mentions?