

# Making Inferences

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**making inferences:** the process of making logical guesses based on evidence and one's own personal knowledge and experience

**making inferences from a text:** the process of making logical guesses based on clues in a text and one's own personal knowledge and experience.

## HERE'S HOW

**Step 1: Identify what is known.** Ask, "What is the evidence?"

**Step 2: Identify similar past experiences.** Ask, "What has happened in other instances like this one? When have I come across this before?"

**Step 3: Connect past experience to what is known.** Think about how aspects of past experience apply to the current situation. Ask, "How are these situations linked?"

**Step 4: Evaluate similarities.** Ask yourself, "Are these situations close enough to justify an inference?"

**Step 5: Make an inference.** If the answer is yes, make an inference, using both the current situation and your past experience.

## EXAMPLE: INFERENCE

### What Is Known

*The teacher is scowling, raising her eyebrows and shaking her head.*

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### Past Experience / Knowledge

*The teacher and others have done this in the past when my work was disappointing.*

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### My Inference

*My test score is not a very good one.*