

VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION SKILLS THAT INVOLVE INFERRING

Students often find it comforting to know that many vocabulary and reading comprehension skills hinge on a single skill: making inferences. Presenting inferring as an underlying, unifying skill makes the other skills seem more approachable and manageable. Skills which are predicated upon the process of inferring are:

- Determining the meaning of words from context
- Formulating implied main ideas
- Making predictions about what is coming next
- Drawing conclusions
- Making inferences based on what's read (including literary material, such as inferences based on a character's words, actions, facial expressions, etc.)
- Unless stated by the author, inferring an author's
 - assumptions
 - purpose
 - point of view
 - intended audience
 - intended meaning
- Understanding cause-effect relationships (unless explicitly stated)
- Evaluating the author's credibility
- Evaluating the validity of the author's argument
- Interpreting figures of speech
- Interpreting the symbolism in poetry and other literature