What is an inference?

Making an inference is type of context clue.

Sometimes you will be asked to find an answer to a

Question that is not stated or explained in a story.

This is called making an inference.
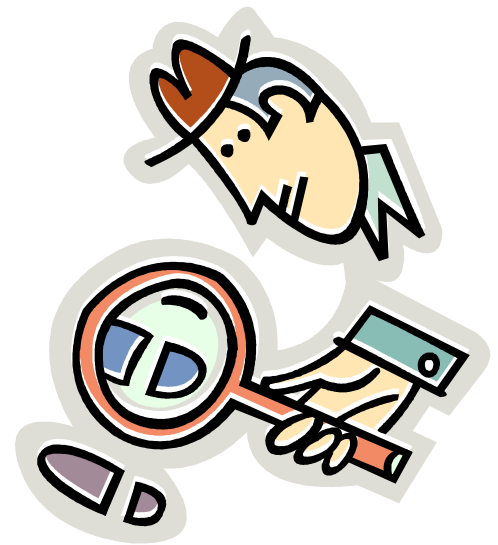
How Do We Make Inferences?

You will need to use your thinking skills!

1. Think about what you already know about the topic.
2. Think about the clues that the author gives you in the story.

This will help you make a good inference!

Context Clues – What Are They?

Context clues are bits of information from the text that, when combined with prior knowledge, allow you to decide the meaning of unknown words in the story or article you are reading.

How Do We Use Context Clues?

As a reader you must act similar to a detective and put together clues from sentences surrounding an unknown word in order to make an intelligent "guess" as to what the definition of a word is.

How Do Context Clues Help Us Learn New Words?

Textbook writers and authors include words or phrases to help their readers understand the meaning of a new or difficult word.

These words or phrases are built into the sentences around the new or difficult word. By becoming more aware of the words around a difficult word, readers can make logical guesses about the meanings of many words.

CONTEXT CLUES

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES:

1. Definition
2. Restatement or Synonym
3. Contrast or Antonym
4. Comparison
5. Example

#1- DEFINITION

The unknown word is defined using words and phrases you already know.

EXAMPLE:

My cousin and I are *kin*. People who are kin are *family*. They are *related* to each other.

#2- RESTATEMENT OR SYNONYM

The author may have used a synonym to restate the word.

It may be separated from the rest of the sentence with

commas, dashes, or parentheses, Look for keywords like

sometimes, that is, or *in other words*.

EXAMPLES:

•**The atomic bomb left behind** radiation- a type of poison- that made

people sick.

#3- CONTRAST OR ANTONYM

The author shows how the unfamiliar word is different from or opposite of another word. Look for keywords like *but, however, although, instead, on the contrary, on the other hand* or *not.*

EXAMPLE:

*Mike's parrot was *enormous*, but Maria's parrot was <u>not as large</u>.

#4- COMPARISON

The author shows how the unfamiliar word is similar to or like something else. Look for keywords like *too, like, as, similar to*, or *in the same way*.

EXAMPLE:

*My brother is *fascinated* by birds similar to the way that I am interested by dogs.

#5- EXAMPLE

The author gives an example of the unfamiliar word.
Look for keywords like *for instance, the same way, such as*, and *for example*.

EXAMPLE:

Ashley's mother looked at her *sternly*, such as the look her teacher gave her when she was talking in class.