

READING APPROACHES/ STRATEGIES

INFERENCE



Children are taught to seek meaning in what they read. It is the understanding of the text. This can be very obvious and literal but can also be hidden. Children learn to infer the not-so-obvious meanings that are often hinted at in fiction and non-fiction texts. They are taught to find clues in the text and to add those to what they already know. Children are taught to develop and apply this skill to reading, eventually having to back up their inferences with evidence from the text, so that they are sure it makes sense in the context.

Inference is closely related to prediction and anticipation. Exciting books require a lot of inference. When children become experts at inferring, they become lost in the world that the book is creating – they cannot wait to turn the page – they are reading for pleasure!