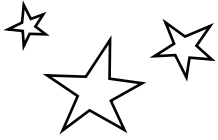
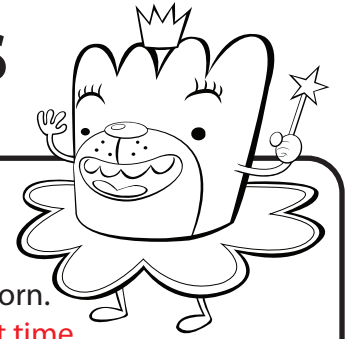


Name: _____

Date: _____



Making Inferences to Interpret Fiction



When you use clues and reasoning to figure out what is going on in a story, especially something that is not explicitly stated, you are making an **inference**.

Example

Scene: The bats flew from the farm and across the dim field of corn.

Inference: Bats usually come out at night, so it is probably night time.

Directions: Read the scenes below and use the clues to answer the questions that follow.

A cold wind howled, bending barren trees like skeletons in the the moonlight. A flurry of snowflakes skittered through the air, catching the wind before landing on frozen rooftops. Inside her room, Penelope lay quietly, clutching her warm blankets as she listened to the sounds of the approaching storm. Beside her, Norma purred gently and curled into a soft ball of fur. Although her window pane rattled, Penelope felt safe and cozy in her bed.

1. What time of day is it? (a) morning (b) afternoon (c) night
2. What season is it? (a) winter (b) spring (c) summer (d) fall
3. What does the word *skittered* mean? (a) walked (b) moved quickly (c) moved slowly
4. Who is Norma? (a) a teddy bear (b) a cat (c) a child (d) a dog

Michael groaned and rolled to his side, pain shooting like red-hot daggers through his crumpled body. "I'm okay," he thought to himself, though his arm throbbed and his head was spinning. He squeezed his eyes shut and took a deep breath, before opening them to look up into the tree above him. He squinted, looking for the broken branch that had betrayed him only a moment earlier. But then he noticed it, lying in the grass next to him, pointing upward like the gnarled finger of an ogre. He kicked it angrily, and then, clutching his injured arm, Michael lifted himself up and slowly headed home.

1. What happened to Michael? He fell out of a tree
2. Underline a *simile* in the text above. How does it help you understand the scene? _____

Possible answers: It helps me to visualize the pain Michael felt / the appearance of the tree branch

• Using context clues in the two stories above, determine the meaning of the homophones:

pane a sheet of glass in a window **pain** discomfort

• How do these two similar lines help set up a different feeling for the two scenes described above?

clutching her warm blankets this makes the scene feel warm and cozy

clutching his injured arm this adds a feeling of discomfort to the scene