Making Inferences: Where Are They?

Readers make **inferences** when an author does not tell everything about the story. To make an inference, use the **clues in the text** and your **background knowledge** to figure out what the author is not directly telling you. Making an inference is like putting together puzzle pieces!



Directions: Read the passages and answer the questions for each story.

Story

1. The late bell rang. Almost immediately, the principal came on the loudspeaker to do the morning announcements. Chairs scratched across the tile floor as children stood up from the desks to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Everywhere they looked, they saw trees, grass, and dirt. As they stood on the trail, they heard the sounds of bugs, birds, and frogs. The girls had their backpacks and boots on. They were ready to explore.

3. The band played and the cheerleaders jumped, flipped, and yelled at the 50 yard line. Oscar and John gave each other a high five as they sat next to each other in the bleachers. Their team had just earned another 7 points on the board. They were so close to a victory!

4. In the sunshine, Amaya and Melanie applied more lotion to their skin. Amaya's mom insisted that they both wear hats since the sun was so strong while they played. They heard seagulls squawking while the waves crashed gently on the sand.

5. Naomi and her family sat down in a booth near the kitchen. They saw waiters and waitresses walking quickly from table to table to speak to people. They delivered drinks on a tray and wrote notes down on pieces of paper while the people talked to them.

Inference

Where are they? How do you know?

They are at school. (Explanations will vary) I know this because in school there is a late bell and announcements that come on in the morning. Also, the text mentions a principal. I know that a principal is the leader of a school.

Where are they? How do you know?

They are on a hiking path. (Explanations will vary) I know this because they see nature all around them and they have hiking gear with them.

Where are they? How do you know?

They are at a football game. (Explanations will vary) I know this because the text says the cheerleaders were at the 50 yard line. This is a measurement on a football field. It also says that the team earned 7 more points, which is how scoring works in football.

Where are they? How do you know?

They are at the beach. (Explanations will vary) I know this because the girls are applying sunscreen and there are seagulls and waves crashing on the sand. These are things you do and hear at the beach.

Where are they? How do you know?

They are at a restaurant. (Explanations will vary) I know this because the family saw waiters and waitresses, which are the people who work at a restaurant. I can also tell that they were taking orders from the customers. I have seen that happen at a restaurant.