CAN YOU MAKE AN INFERENCE?

Good readers make **inferences** when the author does not tell everything about the characters, setting, and events. Making an inference is like putting the pieces of a puzzle together.

EXAMPLE: Maria and Marty wore garden gloves as they walked out the door. They had already placed the potting soil outside near the benches. In their hands, they each carried a packet of seeds. "The students are going to love this. It will be so beautiful when everything blooms in the spring!" Maria said to Marty.

CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE:
– garden gloves – potting soil – packet of seeds	My dad and I garden in our backyard with these things.	The school is going to plant a garden near the benches.

DIRECTIONS: Read each passage, then fill out the chart that follows.

1. As soon as the dog returned to the back patio, the owner said, "Oh, Champ! Not again. You can't come into the house like that. Sit." The owner walked to the side of the house, unraveled the hose, and dragged it to where Champ waited. He turned on the hose and sprayed the dog. The dirty water streamed off the patio.

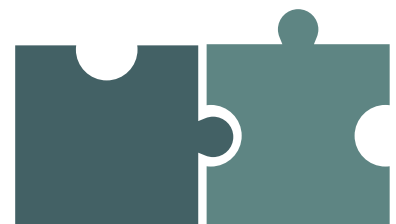| CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE:

CAN YOU MAKE AN INFERENCE?
CONTINUED

2. The crowd cheered loudly for Lisbeth as she took a bow. Her teacher motioned for her to come to the side of the stage so the next group could perform. She had been nervous before, but now Lisbeth was bursting with pride. What a success!

CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE:
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3. Jerome hurried down the street with his backpack and lunchbox. He saw a glimpse of yellow disappear as it turned down the street to the next stop. He stopped in his tracks and caught his breath. "What now?" he thought, as he noticed the sun rising higher in the sky.

CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE:
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CAN YOU MAKE AN INFERENCE?
CONTINUED

4. The lifeguard blew his whistle and everyone turned toward him on the tower. He motioned for everyone to get out of the water. Lucy had noticed the sky was getting darker, the wind picked up speed, and the temperature had dropped. The day had been so pretty, and now it looked like it was time to go home.

CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE:

5. Marjorie walked into her classroom on the first day of third grade. She spent most of the summer getting settled in her new house that she had not been outside very much in the neighborhood. Today, she felt shy and nervous as she found the desk with her name on it. She looked around at the unfamiliar faces and wondered if she would find a best friend.

CLUES:	WHAT YOU KNOW:	INFERENCE: