

Making Inferences—a vital skill!

(Are you inferring, Mrs. Harrell, that if I can't make inferences I'm not a skilled reader?)

Read this and share what you infer:

He put down \$10 at the window. The woman behind the window gave \$4. The person next to him gave him \$3, but he gave it back to her. So, when they went inside, she bought him a large bag of popcorn.

Skilled readers:

- Recognize the antecedents for pronouns
- Figure out the meaning of unknown words from context clues
- Figure out the grammatical function of an unknown word
- Understand the intonation of characters' words
- Identify characters' beliefs, personalities, and motivations
- Understand characters' relationships to one another
- Provide details about the setting
- Provide explanations for events or ideas that are presented in the text
- Understand the author's view of the world
- Recognize the author's biases
- Relate what is happening in the text to their own knowledge of the world
- Offer conclusions from facts presented in the text

Therefore, as you read practice this:

- Look for pronouns and figure out what to connect them to.
- Figure out explanations for various events.
- Think about the setting and see what details you can add.
- Think about something that you know about the topic and see how that fits with what's in the text.
- After you read a section, see if you can explain why the character acted a certain way.
- Look at how a character said a specific quote. How would you have interpreted what that character said if he/she had said it with a different stress, tone, or diction?
- Look for words you don't know and see if any of the other words in the sentence or surrounding sentences can give you an idea of what those unknown words mean.
- As you read text, look for clues that would tell you how the author might feel about a topic or character.