

Lesson Skill: Drawing conclusions and making simple inferences

Strand Reading — Nonfiction

SOL 3.6

4.6

5.6

Materials

- Interesting magazine pictures or old photos
- Nonfiction article
- Paper divided into four sections
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers

Lesson

1. Discuss with students how conclusions are judgments or decisions reached by reasoning. When referring to reading, conclusions can be drawn from the information in the text and also by drawing from personal knowledge and experience.
2. Practice drawing conclusions together as a class. Start by showing students some interesting magazine pictures or old photos. Ask students to draw conclusions about the relationships or emotions of the people in the pictures or the setting in which the picture takes place. Ask students if they can also draw conclusions from the written word that creates pictures in their mind. Go on to explain that well-crafted writing does just that—creates “pictures” in the reader’s mind.
3. Divide the nonfiction selection by paragraph, heading, or subheading—whichever is appropriate. Assign a section to pairs of students to read and identify at least three details or facts contained in the text.
4. On the four-sectioned paper, have students draw three pictures showing each one of the details or facts and write a caption for each. Have them draw a picture in the fourth box stating a conclusion drawn from the detail/fact pictures. Have each pair of students present their folded-paper projects to the class in the order in which they appear in the story.
5. At the end of the lesson, ask students to put into their own words how creating mental pictures while reading, combined with personal experiences, helps them draw conclusions and comprehend what they read.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Use video clips to supplement reading materials.
- Use one three-paragraph text. Use highlighters to find clue words that help students form a conclusion.
- Have students act out the selections using only body language.