

# Lesson Skill: Drawing conclusions and simple inference

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**Strand** Reading — Fiction

**SOL** 3.5

4.5

5.5

## Materials

- Book or excerpt to read aloud

## Lesson

1. As class is about to begin, act out a scenario with evident emotion. For example, walk to your desk, pick up a photo or piece of paper, and display great surprise, happiness, anger, or confusion. Ask students what they concluded based on your behavior. This gives you the chance to talk about how people gain information from their own observations rather than being told what is going on. Point out that a combination of observations and what a person already knows is used to draw conclusions.
2. Practice drawing conclusions together. Divide the class into groups, and give each group an index card with an emotion written on it. Instruct each group to come up with several “hints” that would describe a person who is feeling that emotion. (Ex., The group with the emotion of anger may list “red-faced” or “clenched fists” as two of the hints.) Then have two groups get together and act out the hints to see if they can draw conclusions about how the person feels. Explain to students that they will apply the same practice as they read their story—they will look for “hints” throughout the story and use those hints to draw conclusions.
3. Read a book to the class, and as you read, have students jot down key words that give them cues about what is taking place. After you finish the book, discuss the conclusions they draw about the story based on their notes. Re-emphasize that observing information as you read and combining it with your own knowledge and experience reinforces your ability to draw conclusions and understand what you have read.

\*Note: It is important to monitor students’ progress and understanding of text. Selecting reading material at the appropriate level is key to comprehension.

## Strategies for Differentiation

- Provide video clips or photos that display emotions.
- Act out emotions using only body language.
- Use a variety of media materials on students’ independent reading levels.