The Bear and the Two Travelers

This is a fable of two men who were traveling together, walking through the woods on their way to a final destination. Suddenly, a bear appeared before them on their path and frightened them.

Man 1: "I didn't think twice, climbing quickly into a tree to save myself by hiding in the branches."

Man 2: "I followed my fellow traveler, but tripped. Knowing that I would soon be attacked, I remained on the ground, motionless."

Man 1: "From my safe spot I watched the bear as he felt the man lying on the ground with his snout, smelling him and nuzzling him all over."

Man 2: "I held my breath and pretended to be dead."

The bear soon left, for it is said a bear will not touch a dead body. When the bear was definitely gone, the other traveler descended from the tree, and jokingly asked his friend a question.

Man 1: "What was it the bear whispered in your ear?"

Man 2: "He gave me this advice: Never travel with a friend who deserts you at the approach of danger."

The moral of this fable is: Misfortune tests the sincerity of friends.

This passage has 188 words. Fluency Goal: 6th: Read 145 words in one minute, 7th: Read 167 words in one minute, 8th: Read 171 words in one minute. The first highlighted word is the 145th word, the second is the 167th word, and the third is the 171st word.

Name: _____

Inferences

Part A

Directions: What or whom does this story remind you of in your own life? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-Self Connection:

_____

_____

Part B

Directions: Make inferences about "The Bear and the Two Travelers" and answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think the first man jumped into the tree and didn't help his friend?

   _____

2. How do you think the second man felt to be left in danger?

   _____

3. How do you think the second man felt to have his friend make a joke once they were out of danger? Why?

   _____

   _____

4. How might this experience have changed this friendship between the two men?

   _____

   _____

Name: _____

Inferences *(cont.)*

Part C

Directions: What other text does this story remind you of? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-Text Connection:

_____

_____

Part D

Directions: What does this story teach us about the world? What can you learn about people by reading this story? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-World Connection:

_____

_____

Part E

Directions: Use the story you chose to answer the following questions.

1. Title of the book or story:

   _____

2. What is one inference you can make about the text? Write it below.

   _____

3. What kind of connection can you make to this text? Circle one.

   Text-to-Self   Text-to-Text   Text-to-World

4. What is the connection? Explain it below.

   _____

   _____

Inferences

Passage Title
The Bear and the Two Travelers

Standard
The student can make inferences about text.

Objectives
- The student makes inferences based on explicit information in texts.
- The student makes inferences based on implicit information in texts.
- The student uses inferencing skills to make text-to-text connections.
- The student uses inferencing skills to make text-to-self connections.
- The student uses inferencing skills to make text-to-world connections.
- The student uses inferencing skills to extend ideas beyond the text.

Skill Overview

Making an inference is the process of judging, concluding, or reasoning based on given information. As readers learn to interpret text and "read between the lines," they will learn to get to the real message of the text. Readers may infer to discover the meaning of unclear words, terms, or concepts.

Vocabulary

descended: climbed down
fable: a short fictitious story
misfortune: an unfortunate event or a disaster
nuzzling: pushing or rubbing with the nose

Part A

1. Display the overhead transparency of "The Bear and the Two Travelers."

2. Tell students that this text offers them an opportunity to practice making inferences. Discuss what an inference is. Make sure that students understand that an *inference* is a conclusion that is made based on given information. An author does not always include every bit of information necessary to tell a story because it might make a story too wordy or boring. Often, an author leaves it to the reader to understand some of what he or she is trying to say. The reader must "read between the lines."

3. Explain that one way in which readers make inferences is by relating a story or character to their own personal experience or knowledge. This might not be a direct connection to personal experience. For example, it is unlikely that students have confronted a bear as described in this story. However, students may have experienced feeling let down or disappointed by a friend at some time.

4. Have students open their Guided Practice Books to Lesson 29, with the reading passage "The Bear and the Two Travelers" and the accompanying activity pages (pages 88–90). Read "The Bear and the Two Travelers" passage aloud. Ask students to connect this story to a personal experience on "Part A" of activity page 89.

Part B

1. Discuss the activity completed on "Part A." Have students share the personal experiences that resemble the situation in the passage.

2. Now that students can relate this story to something or someone in their own lives, can they possibly infer any information about the characters? Have students try to do this by answering the questions on "Part B" of activity page 89.
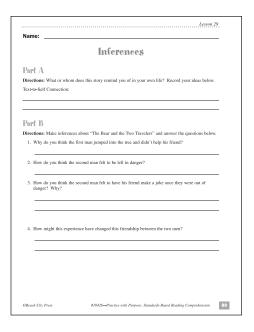
Part C

1. Have students reread "The Bear and the Two Travelers" passage aloud.

2. Remind students of the text-to-self connections made on "Part A."

3. Encourage students to think of how this story reminds them of another text. Perhaps the plot is similar, or the characters relate to another story character.

4. Have students record their text-to-text connections on "Part C" of activity page 90.

Part D

1. Tell students that inferences helped them make connections, both to other texts and to themselves. In addition, they may also use inferences to make connections between the text and the world. What does this story tell you about the world? About how people treat others? About how people act when they are scared?

2. Ask students to reread "The Bear and the Two Travelers" passage aloud and then record their text-to-world ideas on "Part D" of activity page 90.

3. When students are finished, have them share their ideas with the class.

Lesson 29

Name: _____

Inferences

Part A

Directions: What or whom does this story remind you of in your own life? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-Self Connection:

Part B

Directions: Make inferences about "The Bear and the Two Travelers" and answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think the first man jumped into the tree and didn't help his friend?

2. How do you think the second man felt to be left in danger?

3. How do you think the second man felt to have his friend make a joke once they were out of danger? Why?

4. How might this experience have changed this friendship between the two men?

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Lesson 29

Name: _____

Inferences *(cont.)*

Part C

Directions: What other text does this story remind you of? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-Text Connection:

Part D

Directions: What does this story teach us about the world? What can you learn about people by reading this story? Record your ideas below.

Text-to-World Connection:

Part E

Directions: Use the story you chose to answer the following questions.

1. Title of the book or story:

2. What is one inference you can make about the text? Write it below.

3. What kind of connection can you make to this text? Circle one.

    Text-to-Self   Text-to-Text   Text-to-World

4. What is the connection? Explain it below.

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Inferences *(cont.)*

Fluency

1. Set a timer for one minute.

2. Have students read the passage.

3. Students should make a slash mark after the last word read.

4. Then, students count how many words were read.

5. Next, they record this number in the Fluency Chart in their student books, noting the date. Repeat this process daily throughout the week.

6. Students should see improvement in the number of words read. The sixth-grade goal is to read 145 words correctly in one minute; the seventh-grade goal is to read 167 words correctly in one minute; the eighth-grade goal is to read 171 words correctly in one minute.

Part E

1. Have students reread "The Bear and the Two Travelers" passage one final time.

2. Provide students with another text in which they can practice making inferences. Have them record their ideas on "Part E" of activity page 90.

Teacher's Notes

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