

Lesson: 2.05 Makes inferences, draws conclusions, makes generalizations, and finds support by referencing the text.

Fourth Grade Objective: 2.05 enrichment

Lesson

1. When we read text, there are times when we need to “read between the lines” because details are not clearly explained. When we figure out what the author is implying, or trying to say, we are making inferences or drawing conclusions.
2. One strategy that helps you make an inference when reading is to look at what the text says and then think about what you know. Let’s practice making inferences after reading an article on food allergies. The article is on pages four and five.
3. As I was reading the third paragraph, I tried to make an inference or draw a conclusion by looking at the details of the text and thinking about what I already know. I recorded the information in the table below. (But, as Eliza has discovered, kids who have food allergies like hers are hardly alone anymore. About 3 million American kids suffer from food allergies, and the number seems to be growing quickly. A study by the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis (an-uh-fih-lax-iss) Network (FAAN) found that peanut allergies in children doubled between 1997 and 2002. Kids commonly outgrow allergies to milk and eggs. But experts say that today it is taking longer for them to do so.)

The text says . . .	I know . . .	I can infer or draw a conclusion that . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peanut allergies in children doubled between 1997 and 2002 - Kids commonly outgrow allergies to milk and eggs. But experts say it takes longer for them to do so today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a statistic doubles in a short amount of time, that there must be something major that impacted it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There must be something that children today are doing differently than what children did before 1997.

4. As I was reading the 6th paragraph I made another inference. I recorded the information the text says, what I know, and what inference I made in the table below. (No one knows for sure why the number of kids who suffer from food allergies is on the rise, but there are many theories. Burks believes changes in what we eat and an overemphasis on hygiene are contributing factors. In today's germ-busting, antibacterial world, there are fewer viruses and bacteria for our immune systems to fight. So Burks and others believe that immune systems are attacking normally harmless foods instead.)

The text says . . .	I know . . .	I can infer or draw a conclusion that . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what we eat and an overemphasis on hygiene are contributing factors - there are fewer viruses and bacteria for our immune systems to fight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I use antibacterial soap all the time because I want to keep germs away so they won’t get me sick - I wash my hands 5 or more times per day, even when they aren’t really dirty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some germs must be good for you so that our immune systems can have the opportunity to fight them

5. Read the first paragraph under the heading “Serving Up Success” and complete the table below to make an inference.

The text says . . .	I know . . .	I can infer or draw a conclusion that . . .

Check your answer

Below is a possible inference you could have made. This not the only correct answer.

The text says . . .	I know . . .	I can infer or draw a conclusion that . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- peanut butter sandwiches no longer sold in cafeteria- staff trained to use EpiPens- emergency plans and medication in nurse's office for kids with food allergies- There is a Food Allergy Awareness Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I know that when many different steps are taken to help a cause, that it means the cause is really important for some reason- I know doing all of the things the text says, takes a lot of time, training, and money. I know that you don't spend time, training, or a lot of money on something that is not important	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The effects of food allergies can be very dangerous to people who have them and more and more people are getting them

Time for Kids

Forbidden Foods

Elizabeth Winchester

When Eliza Rader was 17 months old, she tasted peanut butter for the first time. Immediately afterward, she broke out in hives, her tongue swelled and she had trouble breathing. Her mother rushed her to a doctor. Later, tests confirmed that Eliza had a severe peanut allergy and was also allergic to sesame and to tree nuts, which include almonds, hazelnuts and walnuts.

Now, Eliza is a 12-year-old seventh grader. She carries an EpiPen injector that gives an emergency dose of medicine at all times. She also visits classrooms at her old elementary school as part of a special project to teach students about food allergies. Last week, she visited Mrs. Dwyer's second-grade class at Westorhard Elementary, in Chappaqua, New York. "When I was younger, I was one of the few kids that had these allergies, so I often felt lonely," Eliza says. "I want to make kids feel more comfortable and safe."

But, as Eliza has discovered, kids who have food allergies like hers are hardly alone anymore. About 3 million American kids suffer from food allergies, and the number seems to be growing quickly. A study by the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis (an-uh-fih-lax-iss) Network (FAAN) found that peanut allergies in children doubled between 1997 and 2002. Kids commonly outgrow allergies to milk and eggs. But experts say that today it is taking longer for them to do so.

Doctors, including Dr. Wesley Burks, head of the children's allergy group at Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, North Carolina, confirm that the increase in the number of kids with food allergies is nothing to sneeze at. "Within the last 20 years, there have been more young patients with food allergies," Burks told TFK.

All About Allergies

In the U.S., eight foods—milk, soy, eggs, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish—cause 90% of all food-allergic reactions (see "Top 5 Most Common Food Allergies" on page 3). Why do common favorites like ice cream, peanut butter and pizza cause some children to feel nauseous, itch, cough and even gasp for air? It is a mistake of the body's immune system. The immune system's role is to protect the body from infections and other invaders. During an allergic reaction, the immune system identifies a food as something dangerous and releases chemicals. These chemicals cause the symptoms of an allergic reaction.

No one knows for sure why the number of kids who suffer from food allergies is on the rise, but there are many theories. Burks believes changes in what we eat and an overemphasis on hygiene are contributing factors. In today's germ-busting, antibacterial world, there are fewer viruses and bacteria for our immune systems to fight. So Burks and others believe that immune systems are attacking normally harmless foods instead.

Serving Up Success

Westorhard Elementary is taking an aggressive approach to food allergies, as are schools and kids across the country (see "A Little Help for Your Friends"). Peanut butter sandwiches are no longer sold in the cafeteria. Students with nut allergies can safely eat their lunch at the nut-free table. School staffers are trained to use EpiPens and look for the signs of allergic reactions. Food-allergic kids keep emergency plans and medication in the nurse's office. For Food Allergy Awareness Week, May 11-17, the school's food-allergy committee is hoping to offer allergen-free sweets and encourage all students to pack a nut-free lunch for one day.

Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Vermont and Washington have passed laws that give schools guidelines on what changes to make. The U.S. government is now considering a law that would extend such guidelines to all states, and there's a good chance it will pass.

Kids Take Charge!

Nut-free lunch tables can do only so much to protect kids like Daniel, 11, of Lake Forest, Illinois. He is allergic to milk, tree nuts, shellfish and beef. Daniel has learned to cope with challenges at birthday parties, baseball games and on holidays. "You have to learn to live with your food allergies," Daniel explains.

For Daniel, Eliza and others, that means avoiding the foods they are allergic to and educating others about the problem. There is no cure for food allergies yet.

"Having a food allergy is just part of what makes you who you are, like if you have glasses or braces," says Eliza. "It doesn't make you different in a bad way. It just makes you special."

Try these on your own!

1. Read an article of your choice. You may select an article from a book or magazine. You may also try one of the following websites:

- www.timeforkids.com
- www.scholasticnews.com
- www.ncwiseowl.org

Try to make inferences about your reading when details are not clearly explained. Use the following table to guide you as you make your inferences.

The text says...	I know...	I can infer or draw a conclusion that...