

Power Word: INFER

This is a guide for the video on the word Infer.
Be prepared to take notes and pause the video when necessary.

Guided Notes

INFER means to come to a conclusion based on detailed information or to make an educated guess about something.

Inferring also means to figure out something in your _____ and to "_____ between the lines." Inferential thinking requires that we figure out answers from the _____ we already have and from _____ we already know.

Practice:

Alberto almost wished that he hadn't listened to the radio. He went to the closet and grabbed his umbrella. He would feel silly carrying it to the bus stop on such a sunny morning.

Which probably happened?

- a. Alberto had promised himself to do something silly that morning.
- b. Alberto had heard a weather forecast that predicted rain.
- c. Alberto planned to trade his umbrella for a bus ride.



Read this excerpt from Rudyard Kipling's "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" and be prepared to infer answers to the questions that follow.



Rikki Tikki Tavi is a fiction story about a heroic mongoose that takes place in India while it was still under British rule. Rikki, the mongoose, rescued by a little boy named Teddy. Teddy's family make Rikki part of their family, and they soon discover how curious this animal is as it gets into mischief exploring their home.

- 1 Then Rikki-tikki went out into the garden to see what was to be seen. It was a large garden, only half cultivated*, with bushes, as big as summer-houses, of Marshal Niel roses, lime and orange trees, clumps of bamboos, and thickets of high grass. Rikki-tikki licked his lips. "This is a splendid hunting-ground," he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it, and he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn-bush.
- 2 It was Darzee, the Tailorbird, and his wife. They had made a beautiful nest by pulling two big leaves together and stitching them up the edges with fibers, and had filled the hollow with cotton and downy fluff. The nest swayed to and fro, as they sat on the rim and cried.
- 3 "What is the matter?" asked Rikki-tikki.
- 4 "We are very miserable," said Darzee. "One of our babies fell out of the nest yesterday and Nag ate him."
- 5 "H'm!" said Rikki-tikki, "that is very sad--but I am a stranger here. Who is Nag?"
- 6 Darzee and his wife only **cowered** down in the nest without answering, for from the thick grass at the foot of the bush there came a low hiss--a horrid cold sound that made Rikki-tikki jump back two clear feet. Then inch by inch out of the grass rose up the head and spread hood of Nag, the big black cobra, and he was five feet long from tongue to tail. When he had lifted one-third of himself clear of the ground, he stayed balancing to and fro exactly as a dandelion tuft balances in the wind, and he looked at Rikki-tikki with the wicked snake's eyes that never change their expression, whatever the snake may be thinking of.
- 7 "Who is Nag?" said he. "I am Nag. The great God Brahm put his mark upon all our people, when the first cobra spread his hood to keep the sun off Brahm as he slept. Look, and be afraid!"
- 8 He spread out his hood more than ever, and Rikki-tikki saw the spectacle-mark on the back of it that looks exactly like the eye part of a hook-and-eye fastening. He was afraid for the minute, but it is impossible for a mongoose to stay frightened for any length of time, and though Rikki-tikki had never met a live cobra before, his mother had fed him on dead ones, and he knew that all a grown mongoose's business in life was to fight and eat snakes. Nag knew that too and, at the bottom of his cold heart, he was afraid.

***Cultivate: To prepare land or soil by plowing, pulling weeds, fertilizing etc. in order to grow plants.**

Use inference to determine answers to the following questions:

1. Re-read Paragraphs 2, 4, and 6 to find details about **Darzee**. Try to read “between the lines” to infer about his personality. Write words the author, Kipling, has used to describe **Darzee**.

Based on what you know and the information provided, what can you infer about **Darzee**?

Sample test question based on the same skill:

2. Which of the following best describes Darzee, the Tailorbird?
 - A. Happy and sociable
 - B. Fearful and timid
 - C. Hopeful and considerate



3. Re-read Paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 to find details about **Nag**. Try to read “between the lines” to infer about his personality. Write words the author, Kipling, has used to describe **Nag**.

How do other characters relate and react to **Nag**?

Based on what you know and the information provided, what can you infer about Nag?

Sample test question based on the same skill:

4. Why does Nag spread his hood and introduce himself in such a manner to Rikki-tikki?



- A. Nag tries to calm the mongoose into thinking he is safe in the cobra's presence.
- B. Nag offers the connection to the “great God Brahm” in order to make himself seem important and superior.
- C. The black cobra welcomes the mongoose to his garden home in order to attain his allegiance.

5. Re-read Paragraph 1 to find details about **the garden**. Try to read “between the lines” to infer about the setting of this story. Write words the author has used to describe **the garden**.

Based on what you know and the information provided, what can you infer about **the garden**?

Sample test question based on the same skill:

6. What is the significance of the "half-cultivated" garden in the description of the setting in the first paragraph?
- A. It indicates the house has been empty for a while.
 - B. It provides animals a place to live and hide.
 - C. It creates a colorful background for the story.

7. How would this experience **most likely** help Rikki-tikki the next time he journeys through the garden?
- A. He would be aware of a sly predator.
 - B. He would know to not offer to help miserable birds.
 - C. He would not be inclined to admire the flowers and bushes.
 - D. He would know that the birds are not able to fly away.



Inferring from communication is about reading
text,

body language,

verbal expression,

faces,

tone of voice,

setting,

situation,

and much more.

