Drawing conclusions and making inferences

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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Drawing conclusions means figuring something out for yourself. To draw conclusions, you need to think about what *makes the most sense*.

Making Inferences is using what you *already know* in addition to what *the story says*.

Drawing conclusions and **making inferences** helps you understand a story better.

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As you read the story, think about what you *already know* in addition to what the story says. Try to figure out what the story means by thinking about what *makes the most sense*.

The Elderly Lion

A very Elderly Lion, weakened by old age and old injuries, could no longer hunt for his food. He lived for a while on grass and berries, but this made him grow still weaker. He decided to use his brain to take what he could not get by force.

The Elderly Lion lay down in his den. He told every animal and bird who passed by that he was very sick. The animals all got the news of Elderly Lion's illness, and came one by one to visit him. Squirrel came, bringing fresh grasses and berries. Squirrel was not seen after that. Dove came, bringing more fresh grasses and berries. Dove was not seen after that. More animals went to visit the Elderly Lion, and it became clear that animals were disappearing.

Fox thought about the situation. He decided to go and visit the Elderly Lion. He went to the Elderly Lion's den and stood outside at a respectful distance. "How are you feeling today?" Fox asked.

"Not well, not at all well," said the Elderly Lion. "But why do you stand there outside? Please—come inside and visit with me for a while."

"No thank you," said Fox. "I notice that there are many footprints leading into your den, but I see no trace of any leading out."

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Use what you *already know* and what the *story says* to **make inferences**:

1. How did the Elderly Lion use his brain instead of force?
   A. The Elderly Lion tricked the animals into coming into his den.
   B. The Elderly Lion stored up grass and berries for the winter.
   C. The Elderly Lion moved to a different den, where better foods grew.

2. Why did the animals come to visit the Elderly Lion when they heard about his illness?
   A. The animals were afraid of the Elderly Lion.
   B. The animals hoped the Elderly Lion would move somewhere else.
   C. The animals felt sorry for the Elderly Lion.

3. Why were Squirrel, Dove, and other animals not seen again after visiting the Elderly Lion?
   A. The Elderly Lion ate them when they came into his den.
   B. The Elderly Lion told them they should move to another part of the forest.
   C. The Elderly Lion let them stay with him, there in his den.

4. Why did Fox decide to go and visit the Elderly Lion?
   A. Fox wanted to tell the Elderly Lion he was sorry he was sick.
   B. Fox wanted to take the Elderly Lion something that would make him feel better.
   C. Fox wanted to find out why animals were disappearing.

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Think about *what makes the most sense*, to **draw a conclusion**:

> "No thank you, said Fox. "I notice that there are many footprints leading into your den, but I see no trace of any leading out."

5. This is probably because:
   A. Fox sees proof that the Elderly Lion has eaten the animals who visited him.
   B. Fox doesn't believe that it is the Elderly Lion who is speaking.
   C. Fox wants to ask the Elderly Lion why animals are disappearing.

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6. Draw another conclusion: What lesson is this story meant to teach?

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