

Textual Evidence, Inference & Theme

Fill in each part when its number appears on the slide.

PART 1 • TARGET

I can make inferences about a literary text and support them with the strongest evidence, and explain how details develop a theme.

PART 2 • WARM-UP

1. Your friend comes in with wet hair and a dripping umbrella. What can you infer? What clues did you use?

Key: It is raining outside. Clues: wet hair, dripping umbrella.

2. What is the difference between something a text SAYS and something it SHOWS?

Key: Says = explicit, stated directly. Shows = implied; you infer it from clues.

3. Write one sentence starter you could use to introduce a quote.

Key: Examples: "The text states...", "According to the author...", "For example..."

PART 3 • PREDICTION

A girl walks in, drops her backpack, slams her binder down, and says nothing. How does she feel?

Circle one: ☐ Happy ☐ Upset ☐ Sleepy

PART 4 • VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Inference	A logical conclusion based on text clues plus what you already know.
Explicit	Stated directly in the text.
Textual evidence	Words or sentences from the text that support an idea.
Theme	A universal message about life developed through the story.

PART 5 • EXPLICIT VS. INFERENCE

Text clue + WHAT I KNOW = INFERENCE.

Check: "Jada checked the clock for the fifth time and tugged her sleeve." You can infer Jada is:

Circle one: (A) Nervous (B) Bored (C) Sleepy (D) Angry

Key: (A) Nervous. Repeated checking and fidgeting show nerves.

PART 6 • STRONG VS. WEAK EVIDENCE

STRONG evidence directly supports the claim. WEAK evidence is only related to the topic.

Check: Claim: Marco misses his grandpa. Which evidence is strongest?

Circle one: (A) The recliner is green. (B) It was Sunday. (C) Mom pressed the newspaper to her chest and walked away without a word. (D) Grandpa liked crossword puzzles.

Key: (C) Mom pressed the newspaper to her chest and walked away without a word. It shows grief directly.

PART 7 • INTRODUCE EVIDENCE

Introduce evidence with phrases like "THE TEXT STATES" and explain it with "THIS SHOWS."

Check: Which is the best way to add evidence?

Circle one: (A) The text is about lunch. (B) According to the text, "she smiled for the first time all day," which shows she felt welcomed. (C) "She smiled." (D) She was happy because I think so.

Key: (B) According to the text, "she smiled for the first time all day," which shows she felt welcomed. It introduces, quotes, and explains.

PART 8 • THEME DEVELOPS

Track how the character CHANGES to find the THEME.

Check: Which best helps you find a theme?

Circle one: (A) How many characters there are (B) The length of the story (C) How the main character changes (D) The setting's weather

Key: (C) How the main character changes. Change reveals the lesson.

PART 9 • WORKED EXAMPLE

1. Inference: Marcus is nervous about the game.
2. Evidence A: "The game started at 7:00."
3. Evidence B: "Marcus retied his shoes for the fourth time."
4. Step 1: Does A show nervousness? No. It is about the game but proves nothing about Marcus.
5. Step 2: B shows a nervous habit. B is the strongest evidence.

PART 10 • WE DO

Text: "Maya stared at her untouched lunch and kept checking the door." Make an inference and support it.

Answer: Maya is nervous or waiting for someone.

PART 11 • YOU DO

Claim: Leo is kind. Which evidence is STRONGEST?

Circle one: (A) "Leo was in science class." (B) "It was lunchtime." (C) "Leo had a backpack." (D) "He slid his pretzels to the middle of the table for her."

Key: (D) "He slid his pretzels to the middle of the table for her." Sharing food directly shows kindness.

PART 12 • WORK TIME: CHARACTER QUEST: HOW THEMES GROW

Write each code piece as you earn it: Level 1: G Level 2: R Level 3: O Level 4: W Level 5: S

Final code: GROWS

PART 13 • WRAP-UP

Was your prediction in Part 3 right? One thing I learned today:

Key: Examples: "The text states...", "According to the author...", "For example..."