



Inference Detective Board

Mission: The author of "The Fifth Plate" never states what is happening, but the clues are everywhere. Pin each text clue to what you already know and the inference it leads to, then prove your big inference in writing.

Big question: How do readers make inferences from text clues and background knowledge?

★ Warm-up: What's happening?

Make an inference and name your clue.

A boy walks in with wet hair and a dripping umbrella. ✓ **It is raining. Clue: wet hair and umbrella.**

A girl keeps checking the clock and tapping her foot. ✓ **She is impatient or late.**

Key vocabulary

Inference	A conclusion based on clues and what you already know.
Explicit	Stated directly.
Implicit	Suggested but not stated.
Background knowledge	What you already know from life and learning.

1 Box 1

Pin the first link

In the simulator: Pin one correct clue → knowledge → inference link.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Solve the board

In the simulator: Pin all four correct links.

Which two inference cards were traps (not supported by the clues)?

- ☐ "Mom is angry at Dad" and "The family is moving away"
☐ "Someone special is expected" and "The celebration is for Dad" ☐ None of them

✓ **"Mom is angry at Dad" and "The family is moving away"**

3 Box 3

Explicit or implicit?

Sort each statement.

Sort: Mom set five plates. · Dad is coming home from the military. · Grandpa wore his Army cap. · The family missed Dad. · A car door slammed.

Stated explicitly	Inferred (implicit)
Mom set five plates. Grandpa wore his Army cap. A car door slammed.	Dad is coming home from the military. The family missed Dad.

4 Box 4

Prove the big inference (CER)

Why is the family celebrating? Support your inference with TWO clues.

Claim (inference)

Look for: Names Dad; States he is returning home; at least 10 words

Evidence (two quotes)

Look for: an exact quote from the text (2 quotes); at least 14 words

Reasoning

Look for: Uses background knowledge; at least 16 words

5 Box 5

Legend: author's craft Legend only

Why might the author choose NOT to tell readers directly that Dad is coming home? How does that affect the ending?

Look for: Explains the effect on readers; at least 18 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do readers make inferences from text clues and background knowledge?

Look for: An inference = text clue + what I already know. Authors "show, don't tell," leaving details for readers to connect. A strong inference is supported by several clues, not a guess.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-13** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1AJ-E
 Investigator	1NA-I
 Legend	VUB-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "An inference is a guess." It is a conclusion based on evidence.
- "Any quote about the topic works as evidence." Evidence must support the specific claim.
- "The theme is stated in the last sentence." Themes are usually developed across the whole text.