

Says vs. Suggests

Mission: Readers must know the difference between what a text SAYS and what it SUGGESTS. Mark explicit facts and inference clues in "The Lunch Table," then write inferences that are backed by evidence.

Big question: How do we distinguish what a text says explicitly from what we infer?

★ Warm-up: Says or suggests?

Label each: S (says) or I (infer).

"Sam is ten years old." ✓ **S.**

"Sam slammed the door and stomped upstairs." ✓ **I: he is angry.**

Key vocabulary

Explicit	Stated directly in the text.
Implicit	Suggested by clues.
Infer	Figure out using clues and knowledge.
Body language	What actions show about feelings.

1 Box 1

Mark both kinds

In the simulator: Mark two explicit facts () and three inference clues ().

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Infer the feeling

What can you infer from "She took out a book... even though she didn't turn a single page"?

☐ She is using the book to hide because she feels lonely or nervous ☐ She is a slow reader ☐ The book is boring

✓ **She is using the book to hide because she feels lonely or nervous**

Sort the statements

Is each statement stated or inferred?

Sort: Jordan is new at the school. · Jordan feels left out. · Kai sits across from Jordan. · Kai is kind and friendly. · Jordan begins to feel hopeful.

Stated explicitly	Inferred
Jordan is new at the school. Kai sits across from Jordan.	Jordan feels left out. Kai is kind and friendly. Jordan begins to feel hopeful.

3 Box 3

Write an inference with evidence

How does Jordan feel at the end, and how do you know?

Inference

Look for: Names a feeling; at least 6 words

Evidence

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

Explain

Look for: Explains the clue; at least 12 words

4 Box 4

Legend: predict Legend only

Predict what happens next and support your prediction with an inference from the text.

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 18 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do we distinguish what a text says explicitly from what we infer?

Look for: Explicit information is stated directly ("She was the new girl"). Implicit information must be inferred from clues ("She held the book up close but didn't turn a page," so she is hiding or feeling lonely). Strong readers cite evidence for both.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** 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	140-E
 Investigator	12Y-I
 Legend	13I-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.