



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 Hen's Tale

All summer long, the Swallows sat in rows along the rafters of the barn, telling stories of the wonders of the South. As the days grew cooler, their excitement grew, for they knew it soon would be Winter. The farm animals liked to listen to the stories, and imagine the wonderful places the birds described. And suddenly one day the Swallows were all gone.

The animals all talked about the Swallows, and the wonders of the South. The Swallows had told of flying over a huge grey sea. They had told of islands, and ships, and the Southern land where they spent the Winter. "I think I shall go South myself," said Hen.

The next morning, Hen set out. She spread her wings and ran off down the road. She fluttered along for a while until she came to a little gate. That night she came back to the barnyard, out of breath and panting.

"I have been to the South!" she cried. And she told the farm animals that she had been to the land where potatoes grow, and corn, and carrots, and beans. She told them of a land where beautiful roses grow in all the colors of the rainbow.

"How interesting!" the animals said. "And what really beautiful descriptions!" The Winter wore on, and the months went by, until the Spring of the year appeared, and the Swallows came again.

"We have been to the South," they said, "and the valleys beyond the great sea." But the farm animals would not agree that there was a sea in the South.

"You should hear our Hen," they said.

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

1. In the beginning of the story, why were the Swallows suddenly all gone?
 - A. The Swallows had grown tired of telling stories.
 - B. The Swallows had gone to build nests.
 - C. The Swallows had gone South for the Winter.

2. Why did Hen decide to go South?
 - A. Hen thought she was a Swallow.
 - B. Hen wanted to see what the Swallows had described.
 - C. Hen thought the other animals did not like her.

3. What did Hen tell the other animals about?
 - A. The Southern lands where the Swallows had gone.
 - B. A vegetable garden and a flower garden.
 - C. The ocean, and islands, and ships.

4. What did the farm animals think about the things Hen told about?
 - A. The animals did not believe Hen.
 - B. The animals laughed at Hen's stories.
 - C. The animals liked Hen's stories.

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

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| <p>“We have been to the South,” they said, “and the valleys beyond the great sea.” But the farm animals would not agree that there was a sea in the South.<br/>“You should hear our Hen,” they said.</p> |
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5. This is probably because:
  - A. They knew Hen better than they knew the Swallows.
  - B. The Swallows stayed away for the whole Winter.
  - C. The animals had never seen an ocean.

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

Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, you are more likely to believe someone you know well than someone you know less well.