

# Inferring Meaning



If you are asked to work out what something *really* means based on the evidence in front of you, you are being asked to infer. You need to look at all the evidence (this might be language, presentation, content, literary devices, etc.) and work out what the purpose of the text is. What is the author's intention?



## Observing

When looking at a text, the first thing you need to do is to see what is actually there. At this stage you aren't working anything out, you are simply compiling what you can see or read in any given text. This may include things like metaphors or similes, as well things like colour, subheadings and pictures.

This will allow you to spot any patterns and to look at evidence from across the text in order to make a more informed inference later on.



## Wondering

Now that you have looked at a range of evidence from within the text, it is time to thinking about any questions which arise from the things you have seen.

Some questions to think about:

- Why have these language choices been made?
- Why is this character behaving in this way?
- What does the way this looks tell me about the intended audience and purpose?



## Inferring

From the questions you have asked about the things you have observed, you should be able to come up with your own interpretation of what is *really* going on.

You need to draw together evidence from the text, as well your understanding of the texts genre, audience, purpose and context.

What is the author trying to do/show based on what you can see in front of you?

