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Mini-Lesson #19: Inference

Teacher Lesson Plan

Objective

Students will define *infer* and practice making inferences with a student activity sheet.

Summary

In this mini-lesson the teacher will guide students to create a definition for *infer*. Then students will listen to the story “Lena” and then make an inference. Finally, students will complete a student activity sheet that will help them to practice making inferences.

Materials

- chart paper and markers
- overhead transparency or copies of “Lena” story (page 58)
- “Changes” student work sheet (1 copy per student, page 59)

Time: 20 minutes

Lesson

1. Introduction: Ask students if they are familiar with the word *infer*. Write a definition for *infer* on the chart paper. (*Infer: to make a conclusion after considering all the facts.*) Explain to students that inferring is almost like being a detective. Tell students that good readers make inferences while they read. Explain that predictions and inferences are very similar because when you predict and infer, you are using clues to figure things out. Tell students that we will practice making inferences today.
2. Tell students that you will read aloud to them a story called “Lena.” Explain to students that the story does not directly say what Lena’s job is, but the story does give readers enough clues to infer what Lena does. Tell students that you will read the passage to them and then they will identify the facts from the story about what Lena does. Finally, they will come to a conclusion—an inference about what Lena’s job is. Display the overhead or distribute copies of “Lena.” *See Inference About Lena below for suggested answers.*
3. Explain to students that they will now practice making inferences on their own. Distribute the “Changes” student activity sheets and review directions together.

Inference About Lena

Facts from the story: She entered her office. She put down her briefcase. She had phone messages from people. She took notes as she talked to people on the phone. She called people and asked them questions. She typed up her notes from talking to the people. She said, “Now that’s news!” She said, “This’ll be great for the front page!”

Conclusion/Inference: Lena is a journalist for the newspaper.

Silent Reading Practice

Refer to page 86 for corresponding reproducible student sheet and directions.

Name _____

Date _____

Lena

Directions: Read “Lena” and then record facts from the story that give you clues as to what Lena’s job is. Finally, make an inference about what Lena’s job is.

When Lena entered her office, she put down her briefcase and anxiously listened to her answering machine messages. She jotted down the phone numbers of the three people who called, grabbed her notebook and pen, and dialed the first number on her list. “Wow! Really? They found it in the backyard? Now, that’s news!” she said. Lena asked the caller a series of questions and feverishly took notes as the person answered the questions. After making all of her calls, Lena began typing up the information she had gained. “This’ll be great for the front page!” she exclaimed.

Clues (*facts from the story*)

Inference (*conclusion about what Lena’s job is*)
