

PARENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

# What families need to know about ...



## MAKING INFERENCES

Comprehending, or understanding, what one reads requires the reader to infer, or figure out, information that is not stated directly in the text. Making inferences is the ability to draw conclusions by making connections between what is stated in the text and the reader's own knowledge. Many times an author will imply a message without directly stating it. A reader is required to "read between the lines" and interpret the message that is not directly stated. It cannot be positively proven by the details given by the writer. For example, sometimes the main topic of a text may not be stated directly. A reader must look for clues and make an educated based on prior knowledge. This is called making an **inference**.

The reader's own knowledge is based on personal experiences and prior reading. Asking questions and using prior knowledge can help a reader understand deeper levels of meaning. Proficient readers examine the information presented and problem solve as they read to gain more from the text than what is stated on the page. Making inferences is an important skill that will impact a reader's comprehension.

### How You Can Help Your Child at Home

- Use riddles and jokes that require your child to have prior information in order to find the answer.
- Read a nonfiction book together with your child. After you have finished the book, ask higher-level, open-ended questions about what you read. This type of question will require your child to make inferences.
- Help your child make connections between the illustrations and the text. Many times the illustrations can help the reader bring further meaning to the text.
- Help your child see cause and effect relationships. Ask: "What caused this result?" "What might happen if...?"
- Play the game *TriBond/TriBond, Jr., Brain Threezer Riddles* with your child.
- When your child does not understand a reading assignment, encourage your child to ask questions to help with the understanding.
- Expose your child to many different experiences to build their personal knowledge.