

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following story. Make an inference about the underlined sentences in the spaces provided. Be sure to start with, "I can infer..."

**Zoo**  
Edward D. Hoch

The children were always good during the month of August, especially when it began to get near the twenty-fifth. It was on this day that the great city of spaceport carrying Professor Hugo's interplanetary Zoo landed down for its annual six-hour visit to the Chicago area.

Before daylight the crowds would form, long lines of children and adults both, each one clutching ten or ten-dollar and waiting with wonderment to see what race of strange creatures the Professor had brought this year.

In the past they had sometimes been treated to three-legged creatures from Venus, or tall, thin ones from Mars, or even snake-like horrors from somewhere more distant. This year, as the great round ship landed slowly to earth in the huge air-city parking area just outside of Chicago, they watched with awe as the sides slowly slid up to reveal the familiar barred cages. In them were some wild breed of nightmare—small, horse-like animals that moved with quick, jerking motions and constantly chattered in a high-pitched squeak. The citizens of Earth cheered around as Professor Hugo's crew quickly collected the waiting dollars, and soon the good Professor himself made an appearance, wearing his many-colored rainbow cape and top hat. "Peoples of Earth," he called into his microphone. The crowd's noise died down and he continued. "Peoples of Earth, this year you see a real treat for your single dollar—the little-known horse-spider people of Kaur—brought to you across a million miles of space at great expense. Cheer around, see them, study them, feast on them, tell your friends about them. But hurry! My ship can remain here only six hours!"

And the crowds slowly filled by, as once horrified and fascinated by those strange creatures that looked like horses but ran up the walls of their cages like spiders. "This is certainly worth a dollar," one man remarked, hurrying away. "I'm going home to get the wife."

All day long it went like this, and ten thousand people had filed by the barred cages set into the side of the spaceship. Then, as the six-hour limit ran out, Professor Hugo once more took the microphone in hand. "We must go now, but we will return next year on this date. And if you enjoyed our zoo this year, telephone your friends in other cities about it. We will land in New York tomorrow, and next week on to London, Paris, Rome, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. Then on to other worlds!"

I can infer that the children are feeling  
to be allowed to do something fun,  
because parents often promise fun  
activities to good children.