Teacher Directions: Recognizing Inferences

Goals for Student

1. Examine text to clarify meaning.
2. Make inferences and generalizations about what is read.
3. Paraphrase text to draw meaning.

Preparation

1. Your class should be familiar with the term "inference."
2. Make copies of the "Inference Matching" worksheet for each student (an answer key is included). The students will cut the paper up into strips, so provide a paper clip for the students to keep the strips together.
3. Provide a variety of elementary-level joke books.

Materials

- "Inference Matching" worksheet (student copy)
- "Recognizing Inferences" worksheet
- Glue stick
- Manila drawing paper
- **Charlotte's Web** (E. B. White), *Island of the Blue Dolphins* (Scott O'Dell), *A Christmas Carol* (Charles Dickens), and *Holes* (Louis Sachar)

Focus on the Skill

To begin, have the students complete the "Common Sense Inferences" section of the "Recognizing Inferences" worksheet.

Practice the Skill

1. Have the students cut the "Inference Matching" worksheet into individual strips. There are a total of twenty strips.
2. Next, the students will match the types of inference with the example that best represents the inference description. They will glue their matches down on a piece of manila paper.
3. The types of inference will go on the left and the examples of those inferences will go on the right.
4. Next, have the students choose one of the bumper sticker slogans on the "Recognizing Inferences" worksheet.
5. Using the "Understanding Humor Chart," the students must list all facts, opinions, ideas, inferences, and related real-life situations that come to mind. In the end, they must explain what it is that makes the bumper sticker funny.

Take It to the Next Level

1. Allow the students to locate a joke of their own in one of the joke books.
2. They will turn the "Recognizing Inferences" worksheet over and draw a comic strip that illustrates the joke. Underneath, they must explain what makes the joke funny.

Special Considerations

For students that get overwhelmed with finding matches, make sure they know that each is labeled with either "Type of Inference" or "Example." If you want to challenge your students, use correction fluid to cover these identifying terms before you make copies of the list.