

10 Major Types of Inference in Literature



on the page (word clues) + in your head (think!) =

Authors don't tell you everything. You have to figure some things out when you read based on the clues the author gives you. When the author gives you clues, that's called an **implication**. When the author makes an implication, you must make an **inference** about the author's implied message. Different types of inference readers make include:

1. Inferences about **The Location**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
"While we roared down the tracks, we could feel the bounce and sway."	Moving fast down tracks, swaying...	They must be on a train.

2. Inferences about **The Agent (Occupation or Pastime)**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
"With clippers in one hand and scissors in the other, Chris was ready to begin the job."		

3. Inferences about **Time**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
"When the porch light burned out, the darkness was total."		

4. Inferences about **Action (What's going on?)**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
"Carol dribbled down the court and then passed the ball to Ann."		

5. Inferences about **Instrument (Tool or Device)**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"With a steady hand, she put the buzzing device on the tooth."</i>		

6. Inferences about **Cause & Effect**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"In the morning, we discovered that the trees were uprooted and homes were missing their rooftops."</i>		

7. Inferences about **An Object (What is it?)**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"The broad wings were swept back in a 'v', and each held two powerful engines."</i>		

8. Inferences about **A Category**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"The Saab and Volvo were in the garage, and the Audi was out front."</i>		

9. Inferences about **A Problem or Solution**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"The side of his face was swollen, and he winced when he tried to chew the mashed potatoes."</i>		

10. Inferences about **Feelings or Character Traits**:

<i>Words on the Page:</i>	<i>Clues in the Text:</i>	<i>Inference:</i>
<i>"While I marched past in the junior high band, my dad cheered and his eyes filled with tears."</i>		