

Making Inferences

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passage. Combine details from the text with your own knowledge and experience to make inferences about setting, character, and plot.

Adrian wiped her sweating hands on her skirt and immediately checked to be sure she hadn't stained the shimmering fabric. Through the thick curtain she heard the audience murmuring. Although she could not yet see them, her ears told her it must be a packed house. She'd dreamed of this moment all her life, spent years training her body to move gracefully in rhythm with the music. The final weeks leading up to tonight had been especially trying, and Adrian had the blisters and calluses to prove it. They were carefully hidden, of course, under delicate satin slippers with ribbons that encircled her ankles. The first notes of the opening number were hanging in the air as Adrian quickly took her place center stage. She took a deep breath, as she'd been taught, and tried to send all of the negative emotions out of her body as she slowly exhaled. The curtains parted.

1. **Setting** – What can you infer about the time and place?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What inference can you make about the setting?

2. **Character** – What can you infer about how the character feels?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What can you infer about the character's feelings?

3. **Plot** – What can you infer that the character is doing?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What can you infer that the character is doing?

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Corey counted the tickets in his hand one more time. Three left, he thought. If he used two for the carousel, he would still have one to buy popcorn. Earlier that day a carnie had asked Corey if he'd be willing to help out in exchange for ten red tickets. Now, Corey's back ached, and his boots were grimy with the smelly stuff that once covered the petting zoo floor—but it had all been worth it. Already Corey had swapped some of his tickets to see a magician make a lady disappear, and he had ridden high into the air on a Ferris-wheel – while eating the tastiest caramel apple imaginable. He could see the yellow and white lights of the Ferris-wheel turning slowly in the distance, and he remembered how small the nearby town had looked from that great height. Calliope music from the carousel roused him, and Corey remembered the tickets in his hand. He raced toward the sound.

4. **Setting** – What can you infer about the time and place?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What inference can you make about the setting?
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5. **Character** – What can you infer about how the character feels?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What can you infer about the character's feelings?
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6. **Plot** – What can you infer that Corey did to earn the tickets?

What evidence did you find in the text?	+	What experience/knowledge do you already have about this topic?	=	What can you infer that Corey did to earn the tickets?
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Bonus Activity: Make a prediction about what Corey will do next. What clues in the text helped you predict?

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ANSWER KEY:

Note: Background knowledge and experience answers will vary by student, but should relate to the story.

1A: Through the thick curtain she heard the audience... center stage... training her body to move gracefully in rhythm with the music... final weeks leading up to tonight... delicate satin slippers with ribbons that encircled her ankles... first notes of the opening number

1C: Onstage, opening night of a ballet, just as the performance is beginning

2A: wiped her sweating hands... She'd dreamed of this moment all her life, spent years training... tried to send all of the negative emotions out of her body

2C: nervous, but excited / anxious

3A: Although she could not yet see them, her ears told her it must be a packed house... Through the thick curtain she heard the audience murmuring... delicate satin slippers with ribbons that encircled her ankles... The first notes of the opening number were hanging in the air as Adrian quickly took her place center stage.

3C: Adrian is about to dance in a ballet; she is most likely the star of the show

4A: tickets... carousel... popcorn... petting zoo... magician... Ferris-wheel... Earlier that day... He could see the yellow and white lights of the Ferris-wheel...

4C: It is nighttime at a carnival outside of town

5A: Corey's back ached, and his boots were grimy with the smelly stuff...but it had all been worth it... He raced toward the sound

5C: Corey is happy and excited

6A: a carnie had asked Corey if he'd be willing to help out in exchange for ten red tickets... Corey's back ached, and his boots were grimy with the smelly stuff that once covered the petting zoo floor

6C: Corey cleaned dirty hay and animal manure from the floor.

BONUS:

Prediction: Corey is going to ride the carousel.

Evidence: If he used two for the carousel, he would still have one to buy popcorn... Calliope music from the carousel roused him, and Corey remembered the tickets in his hand. He raced toward the sound.