



**LITERACY APPROACH FOR OCTOBER
LONGFELLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL
By Pam Haber: Reading Specialist**

Making Inferences

Readers draw inferences from text by using their prior knowledge and textual information to draw conclusions, make critical judgments, and form interpretations from the text.

-from Harvey and Goudvis, Strategies that Work

What is an inference in life?

- If the boss looks grumpy, it might not be the best time to ask for a raise.
- If a child's lips are quivering, it might be a sign to give him or her a hug.

What is it in reading?

- The reader combines what he or she already understands about the topic with the clues in the reading to figure out something that is not specifically stated ... reading between the lines.

How can I help my child?

- Read or watch TV together and talk about inferences you made.
- Use these ideas to spark conversation.
 - The author or actor didn't say...but I knew...because...
 - I understand...about the situation because...
 - I predict...because...
 - I think the people are thinking or feeling...I know this because...

**Series Books:
Making Book Choices Easier**

Children's series books have come a long way. Did you grow up with Nancy Drew? The Hardy Boys? The Lord of the Rings? Do you still seek out series books? So do teens! Whether a book becomes a series or stops at a sequel or two, they can certainly keep your teen excited and engaged in reading for as long as the author keeps writing. Here are a few popular middle school series (or books with sequels) to consider:

A Living Nightmare: Cirque de Freak Series by Darren Shan

- A very strange group of circus performers

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

- Action-packed fantasy starring a criminal mastermind

The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

- The final book has just been published.

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

- Sophisticated fantasy, three books

Stormbreaker: Alex Rider Adventure by Anthony Horowitz

- Action! Adventure!

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

- A future society has become a totalitarian state.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares

- Imagine how a perfect pair of jeans can change lives.

Sammy Keyes Series by Wendelin Van Draanen

- An interesting teenage sleuth; move over Nancy Drew!

Uglies by Scott Westerfield

- Everybody becomes pretty in this future world.