

Two critical reading skills which all seventh and eighth graders must master



Making Inferences

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...

Character Study

What is it?

- Character includes appearance, personality, thoughts, feelings, speech, and how other characters respond to them.
- Understanding character is essential not only to reading literature, but to understanding people.

How can I help my child?

- Read together and discuss a character.
- Select words the character says that help you understand their feelings, attitude, or personality. Describe them.
- How do other characters react to the main character?
- What do you know about the character based on his or her gestures or actions?
- How does the character change throughout the story?