LESSON 8

STUDENT LESSON SUMMARY

Making Inferences

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**making inferences:** the process of making logical guesses based on evidence and one’s own personal knowledge and experience

**making inferences from a text:** the process of making logical guesses based on clues in a text and one’s own personal knowledge and experience.

HERE’S HOW

**Step 1: Identify what is known.** Ask, “What is the evidence?”

**Step 2: Identify similar past experiences.** Ask, “What has happened in other instances like this one? When have I come across this before?”

**Step 3: Connect past experience to what is known.** Think about how aspects of past experience apply to the current situation. Ask, “How are these situations linked?”

**Step 4: Evaluate similarities.** Ask yourself, “Are these situations close enough to justify an inference?”

**Step 5: Make an inference.** If the answer is yes, make an inference, using both the current situation and your past experience.

EXAMPLE: INFEERENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Is Known</th>
<th>Past Experience / Knowledge</th>
<th>My Inference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher is scowling, raising her eyebrows and shaking her head.</td>
<td>The teacher and others have done this in the past when my work was disappointing.</td>
<td>My test score is not a very good one.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>