Chart: Making inferences while reading a story

Student name: _____   Date: _____

Book/Chapter title: _____   Book author: _____

Making Inferences While Reading a Story

Your book or chapter contains story clues. A story clue is when an author provides a clue about how a character is feeling and does not actually say how the character is feeling. For example, "Zara's eyes turned smoky" is a clue an author might give to how a girl named Zara is feeling in a story. Is Zara angry or sad? The author leaves the reader to fill in the gap, making an inference or conclusion based on what the reader knows about the story and about how people usually behave. Making an inference also allows a reader to make a prediction, a guess about what might happen next in a story.

Find three story clues in the book or chapter you are reading. Write the story clue in the left-hand column. For each story clue, write a sentence about two things: what you know from reading the story and what inference you can make about the character's feelings. Something to think about for your own writing: After reading this author's story clues and making an inference, could you have predicted what actually happened next in the story?

Story clue	What I know from the story	The inference I make

Chart: Making inferences and predictions before reading a book

Student name: _____   Date: _____

Book/Chapter title: _____   Book author: _____

Making Inferences and Predictions Before Reading a Book

Before you read your book, look for clues as to what it is about. Examine the front and back covers closely, looking at any illustrations and reading any information provided. Then read three pages of the book, one from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end.

Apply the Six W's to the story: Who? When? Where? What? Why? How? Then answer the questions below. You might have more than one answer for some questions. Answer all that you can. If you cannot answer a question from the clues you have, just leave that question blank.

After you have read your book, read this sheet again and place a checkmark beside every answer that you predicted accurately using the clues you had. If something surprised you, turn over the page and explain in a sentence or two why you were surprised.

Who will be the main character of the story? _____

_____

When will the story take place?_____

_____

Where will the story take place? _____

_____

What do I think will happen to the main character? _____

_____

Why do I think this will happen to the main character? _____

_____

Chart: Collecting information about a character

Student name: _____   Date: _____

Book/Chapter title: _____   Book author: _____

Collecting Information About a Character

After you have read a novel, you might feel as though you have actually met one of the characters. One reason is that the author has provided information in the early pages or chapters of the novel that makes the character come alive for you as the reader.

Most authors provide information about a character's physical characteristics, motivations, obstacles, personality traits, and relationships. Here is your chance to see what you can find out about a character in the novel you just read. Choose one character, and write the character's name on the line indicated.

In the left-hand column, describe some kinds of information you found about the character. For example, under Physical Characteristics, you might write: "very curly and fiery red hair." In the middle column, write a sentence from the novel that supports that information. For example, you might write: "Joel's hair fanned out around his head and in the bright light reminded Lee of a blazing bonfire." In the right-hand column, write the page number where you found the sentence. For example, you might write: page 14.

There is room for three examples of each kind of information. You may add more if you wish. If you have no information about something, just leave that line blank. Tip: The first chapters of a novel are the best place to find information about the main characters.

Character's name: _____

Information	Sentence	Page number
Physical Characteristics		