



MAKING INFERENCES **DETECTIVE** = **CASE FILES** =



THIS RESOURCE INCLUDES:

- Teacher directions
- Making Inferences Detective Case Files craft template
- Inference graphic organizer
- Clues and inference recording sheet
- Color example
- Black-and-white student version
- Answer Key





TEACHER DIRECTIONS



Students will use clues from the text and their background knowledge to make inferences and solve each case!

1 INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY

- Explain that good readers are detectives! They look for clues in the text and use their background knowledge to make inferences.

2 READ & GATHER CLUES

- Students read the short case/model together or independently.
- Have students identify important clues from the text and write them in the "Clues from the Text." section.

3 THINK & INFER

- Students use their background knowledge to help them think about what might be happening.
- They write their inference in the "My Inference" section.

4 PROVE IT!

- Students find evidence in the text that supports their inference.
- They write or list the evidence in the "Evidence to Support My Inference" section.

5 SHARE & DISCUSS

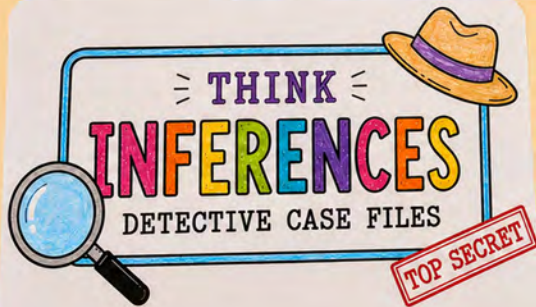
- Students can share their thinking with a partner or small group and explain the clues and evidence they used.



TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Remind students that there may be more than one reasonable inference.
- Encourage students to always use evidence from the text!
- Model one case together before students work independently.
- Display finished case files for a fun "Detective Board!"





Detective: Sasha

THE CASE:

What is happening?
(Write the question or
mystery you are trying to solve.)

Why does Corduroy stay up
all night in the department
store?



CLUES FROM THE TEXT

What clues did the author give me?

- Corduroy was left on a shelf
- He wanted someone to take him home
- He searched the store all night
- He hid so no one would see him



MY BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

What do I already know
that can help?

- Stuffed animals are usually bought by someone
- Sometimes things are forgotten
- Everyone wants to be loved and included



EVIDENCE CLUES

- 1 He was left behind
- 2 He wished for a friend
- 3 He explored the whole store
- 4 He was found in the morning



MY INFERENCE

What do I think is happening?
(My inference)

Corduroy stays up all night
because he is lonely and really
wants someone to take him
home and be his friend.



EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MY INFERENCE

- The text says Corduroy was left behind and wished for a friend.
- He searched all night because he wanted someone to find him.
- In the end, a little girl chooses him to take home.



≡ THINK ≡

INFERENCES

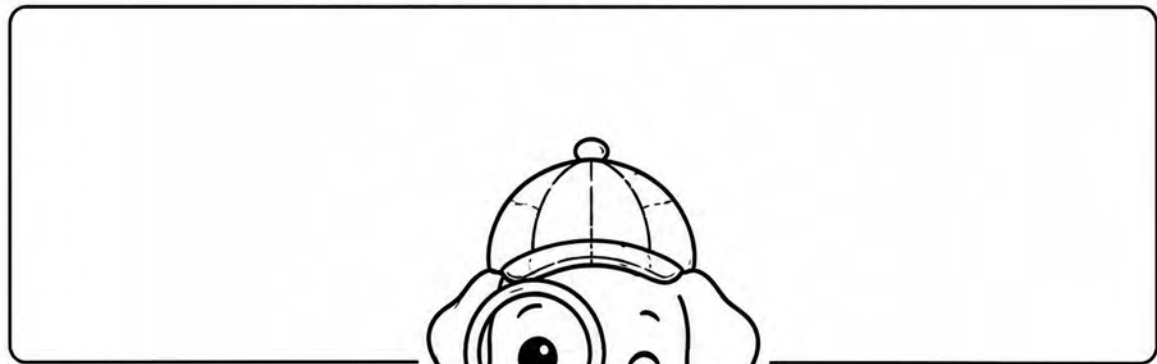
DETECTIVE CASE FILES

TOP SECRET

Detective: _____

THE CASE:

What is happening?
(Write the question or
mystery you are trying to solve.)





CLUES FROM THE TEXT

What clues did the author give me?



MY BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

What do I already know
that can help?



MY INFERENCE

What do I think is happening?
(My inference)



EVIDENCE CLUES

1

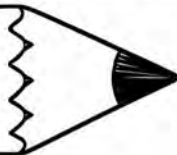
2

3

4



EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MY INFERENCE





MAKING INFERENCES



Good readers use clues + background knowledge = inferences!



1. CLUES FROM THE TEXT

What clues did the author give me?



2. MY BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

What do I already know that can help?



3. MY INFERENCE

What do I think is happening?
(My inference)



4. EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MY INFERENCE

What evidence from the text supports my inference?
