

Clues in the Text: Making Inferences

Name _____ Date _____

An inference is a logical conclusion built by combining clues from the text with what you already know (your schema). Good readers look for these clues to understand characters and events that the author doesn't state directly.

Part 1: Warm-Up — Mateo's Scenario

Read the short passage below. Pay close attention to Mateo's actions and body language.

Mateo stared at the floor, his hands clenched into tight fists. He took a deep breath and slowly released it, but his shoulders remained stiff. When his sister asked if he wanted to play, he walked out of the room without saying a word.

1. What is Mateo feeling? Write down your inference and explain which clues in the text helped you figure it out.

Clues in the Text: Making Inferences

Name _____

Date _____

Part 2: Reading — The Missing Key

Read the story below. Look for clues that tell you more about Clara's feelings and the situation.

Clara kicked off her muddy boots and reached into her jacket pocket. Her fingers met empty space. Her heart did a sudden flip. She frantically patted her jeans pockets, then dumped the contents of her backpack onto the porch floor—pencils, a crumpled notebook, and a half-eaten apple rolled out, but no brass ring.

She looked back down the gravel path winding into the dark woods. The sun was dipping below the tree line, casting long, eerie shadows. A cold wind began to whistle through the branches. Clara swallowed hard, her eyes wide as she gripped the porch railing. She had promised her father she would be home before dark, and the front door was locked tight.

Part 3: Inference Graphic Organizer

Complete the graphic organizer below by making three logical inferences based on 'The Missing Key'. For each inference, identify the text clue and explain how your background knowledge (schema) helped you reach that conclusion.

Text Clue / Evidence	My Schema (What I Know)	My Inference

Clues in the Text: Making Inferences

Name _____ Date _____

Part 4: Exit Ticket — Maya's Scenario

Read the passage below and answer the question.

Maya's hands shook as she held the envelope. She took a deep breath, closed her eyes, and slipped it into her desk drawer without opening it.

2. What can you infer about Maya's feelings? Explain your inference using clues from the text and your background knowledge.
