

# Inferring - 1

When we read we often make decisions about what we think is most likely to be true based on the information given in the text. This is called inferring.

Read the narrative.

## Bindiyup Rock

1. Reece was woken by a car door slamming right outside his window. He was up, dressed and out the front in record time. Dad was loading the back of the car with the camping gear. Reece looked around and picked up the sleeping bags and put them in the car, making his dad stop what he was doing and stare at him.
2. It was the start of the long weekend and Reece, his little sister Ellie and his parents were going camping to Bindiyup Rock with his cousin and aunt and uncle.
3. The trip was long and there was nothing much to look at. Ellie chatted the whole way in her special three-year-old language, sang bits of nursery rhymes and put a sticky, wet jelly baby in Reece's hair.
4. After some time, Reece noticed how thick the bush either side of them was becoming. They passed a lake and saw people for the first time in over an hour. There was a speedboat pulling two kids along in a rubber ring. Dad kept on driving until they came to a clearing. Reece saw it first—a big rock that looked quite like a paler, smaller version of Uluru. Reece spotted his cousin, Josh, and as soon as the car stopped, jumped out and ran towards him.
5. Mum got out and surveyed the dusty, bare ground of the campsite. She laughed. 'Are you sure this is it?' she asked her husband, who nodded. 'Well ... I should have left my hair dryer at home then!'
6. While the adults were setting up the tents and lighting the barbecue, Reece and Josh were itching to explore the bush around them. Every time they disappeared, one of their mums would yell at them to come back and do something. In the end, the mums gave in. Reece's mum told the boys to take Ellie for a walk around the base of the rock while they organised dinner.
7. The boys whooped with excitement, grabbed one of Ellie's hands each and headed towards the rock. They studied it as they walked but had to stop every few minutes so Ellie could show them some 'interesting' stone or weed she had discovered. Eventually, Reece found a spot in the rock they could climb up. The boys told Ellie to wait exactly where she was and that they would only be a few minutes.
8. About fifteen minutes later, the boys jumped down from a small ledge on the rock, laughing and shouting. Josh did a big 'Tarzan' roar, making Reece laugh even harder. All of a sudden, Reece's smile disappeared. He went pale and his stomach flipped over inside him. Ellie was gone! The boys yelled out her name over and over and decided to backtrack to the campsite.
9. When they arrived back, there were other people at the campgrounds. Reece pushed past them looking for his mum and found Ellie sitting on her lap with red eyes and a frown.
10. 'She'd made it all the way to the lake, Reece', his Dad said in a quiet but serious tone Reece had never heard before. 'We are so lucky they found her in time.'
11. Just as Reece noticed the new people were wearing life jackets, Ellie started whimpering that she wanted to go home.
12. 'Let's go and find a hotel!' Mum declared.





## Learning about the skill

Learn how to work out what is most likely to be true.

- The answers are usually not in the text, but there is information given that will give you clues to think about. (This could be underlined.)
- Find the answer that makes the most sense and is supported by text details.
- Always consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *Why do you think Dad stopped and stared at Reece as he was putting the sleeping bags in the back of the car?*

- (a) He was cross that Reece was helping when he should have been in bed.
- (b) He was cross that Reece was helping without asking him first.
- (c) He was surprised that Reece was out of bed.
- (d) He was surprised that Reece was helping him without being asked.

### *Choosing the best answer*

- (a) As Reece was helping Dad, it is unlikely that he would be cross. Also, if Dad was packing the car, it was probably time for Reece to be out of bed anyway, so this not the best answer.
- (b) Once again, as Reece was helping Dad, it is unlikely he would be cross with him. This is not the best answer.
- (c) He may have been surprised that Reece was out of bed. This could be the best answer, but check all the answers.
- (d) As Reece was putting the sleeping bags in the car when Dad stopped and stared, he was probably surprised that his son was helping without being asked. This is the best answer.

2. *How do you think Reece was feeling during the trip to Bindiyup Rock?*

- (a) Carsick.
- (b) Bored and happy.
- (c) Bored and annoyed.
- (d) Annoyed and tired.

### *Choosing the best answer*

- (a) Nowhere in the text does it suggest that Reece was carsick. This is not the best answer.
- (b) He was bored as there was not much to see, but the text does not suggest he was happy. This is not the right answer.
- (c) He was bored as there wasn't much to see and he was probably annoyed as Ellie had put a sweet in his hair. This is probably the best answer, but check all answers.
- (d) He was annoyed, but the text does not suggest he was tired at all. This is not the best answer.



Use similar strategies to those on page 65 to help you decide what you think is most likely to be true, based on information from the text. (Clues are given to help you.)

1. How do you think Reece was feeling when he realised Ellie had disappeared?

- (a) cross
- (b) upset
- (c) confused
- (d) sick

The best answer is .

**Think!**  
Read paragraph 8 to see how Reece reacted.

2. Why do you think the two mums stopped the boys from exploring in the bush?

- (a) They didn't want them to have any fun.
- (b) They wanted them to help the adults unpack.
- (c) They thought the boys might get lost in the bush.
- (d) They were worried they would be bitten by a snake.

The best answer is .

**Think!**  
Read paragraphs 4 and 6 and think about where they were.

3. (a) Do you think Dad had described the camping grounds to his wife before they left?

Yes  No

(b) Explain why you think this.

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**Think!**  
Read paragraph 5 to find out how Mum reacted when they arrived.

4. Who were the people that found Ellie by the lake?

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**Think!**  
Read the text again and look for details about the lake.

5. Why do you think Dad spoke so seriously to Reece about the people finding Ellie near the lake?

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**Think!**  
Think about where Ellie was found.



## On your own

Think about the strategies you have learnt and work out these answers.

1. *Why do you think Reece's mum laughed when she got out of the car?*

- (a) She was happy they arrived safely.
- (b) She was happy to be out of the car.
- (c) The rock looked funny to her.
- (d) The campground was not what she had expected at all.

The best answer is .

2. *How do you think the boys were feeling as they jumped down from the rock?*

- (a) exhausted
- (b) triumphant
- (c) happy
- (d) hungry

The best answer is .

3. *When the boys arrived back at the campsite, why do you think Reece went directly to his mum?*

- (a) He had missed her.
- (b) He was upset and wanted a cuddle.
- (c) He wanted her to be the first person he told Ellie was missing.
- (d) He was hoping Ellie had made her way back to her mum.

The best answer is .

4. *Give some reasons why you think Ellie didn't wait for the boys to return.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Write three words to describe how you think Ellie was feeling when she was sitting on her mum's lap.*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. (a) Do you think the family will be going camping for their holidays next year?

Yes  No

(b) Explain why you think this.

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