

“Thank You, M’am” by Langston Hughes

Reading: Identify the Connections to Make Inferences

An **inference** is a logical assumption that you make about something the writer suggests but does not directly state. You often make inferences by **identifying the connections** between story events and outcomes or between characters’ behavior and backgrounds, personalities, or other reasons for the behavior. For example, in “Thank You, M’am,” if you connect the detail about the boy’s background to his snatching the purse, you can infer that the boy may misbehave because of lack of attention at home.

A young boy snatches a purse.	+	He has a dirty face and no one at home to wash it.	=	The boy misbehaves because of lack of attention at home.
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DIRECTIONS: For each numbered item, connect the two details in order to make the requested inference about a character’s behavior or about the outcome of events.

1. Mrs. Jones lifts Roger by the shirtfront and demands the return of her purse.	+	Roger returns the purse.	=	Make an inference about why Roger returns the purse: _____ _____
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2. Roger says he has no one at home to wash his face.	+	Mrs. Jones says it will get washed this evening.	=	Make an inference about how Roger’s face will get washed: _____ _____
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3. Roger does not appear to be eating well.	+	Roger snatched the purse to buy blue suede shoes.	=	Make an inference about the kind of person Roger is: _____ _____
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4. Mrs. Jones leaves her purse out in the open when she prepares food for herself and Roger.	+	Roger sits far away from the purse and does not want to be mistrusted.	=	Make an inference about how Mrs. Jones has changed Roger’s behavior: _____ _____
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