Teaching inferential comprehension strategies : Summary

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Students can learn to use the 4W and H framework to generate inferential questions to ask of text they hear or read.

Infer from the information given : questions ask readers to infer about ideas before /earlier than the contexts in the text:

Who do you think ....?	Who do you think had been more spoilt, Dudley or Harry ?
What do you think ....?	What was a duty of the Director of the Zoo ?
Why do you think ....?	Why do you think Dudley had been spoilt by his parents in earlier years ?
Where do you think ....?	Where do you think Dudley had spent a lot of his time when at home ?
When do you think ....?	When do you think Dudley started to bully Harry ?
How do you think ....?	What do you think Aunt Petunia did when she saw that Dudley was safe after the snake escaped ?

Infer in time; questions ask readers to infer in time about ideas in the text:

What do you think ..?	What unusual things happened to Harry when he was younger ?
Why do you think ...?	Why do you think Dudley was spoilt by his parents in earlier years ?
Where do you think.?	Where do you think Dudley had spent a lot of his time when at home ?
When do you think .?	When do you think Dudley started to bully Harry ?
How do you think ..?	How do you think Dudley had been treated by his aunt and uncle when he was younger ?

Infer unstated cause and effect questions ask readers to infer cause and effect not stated directly in the text, read between the lines

Who do you think ....?	Who do you think made the snake's glass disappear ?
What do you think ....?	What feelings do you think made Uncle Vernon buy an ice lolly for Harry ?
Why do you think ....?	Why do you think the zoo director kept on apologising to Uncle Vernon and Aunt Petunia ?
Where do you think ....?	Where do you think the glass from the snake's cage went ?
When do you think ....?	When do you think the snake woke up ?
How do you think ....?	How do you think Dudley felt when Uncle Vernon bought his a second knickerbocker ?

Infer the nature of possible changes questions ask readers to infer 'what would happen if......?' by changing ideas in the text

who change	What do you think would have happened if Dudley was nicer to Harry ?
why change.	What do you think might have happened if Uncle Vernon had looked at the snake in the way that Harry did ?
when change	What might have happened if Aunty Petunia told Dudley off when he began his pretend tears ?
where change	What might have happened if Dudley had gone to Luna Park for his birthday and was on the Ferris Wheel and Harry looked at it?
what change	What do you think might have happened if the snake tried to eat Dudley but couldn't swallow him cage ?
how change	What do you think might have happened if the snake hadn't winked at Harry but had hissed at him instead ?

Infer the audience questions ask readers to infer what the writer believed about the audience:

Why do you think the author wrote the text ?	Why do you think JK Rowling wrote this chapter ? Harry Potter ?
When do you think the author wrote the text ?	Would JK Rowling write this novel by thinking like adult or like a boy ?
Where do you think the author wrote the text ?	Where would the author get her ideas for writing a r like Harry Potter ?
What do you find out about the author ?	What does this chapter tell you about JK Rowling's s of humor ? What types of people do you think she l doesn't like ?
How do you think the author felt when writing the text ?	How do you think JK Rowling was feeling when she wrote this chapter ?

Infer what characters are like : questions that ask readers to

infer character traits, what characters are like using clues in the text.	What sort of a person is Uncle Vernon ?
compare characters; infer likenesses and differences in characters	Compare Dudley with the snake ? How might their personalities be different ?

Infer the main idea;   readers infer the main idea, general significance, theme, or moral of the text and supporting details:

infer the main idea or moral of the text.	What do you think this chapter wanting to tell us about winning ?
infer supporting details.	What things in the chapter show us that Dudley really isn't a winner but a weak loser ?

Evaluative level questions : these questions ask readers to judge the content of a text by comparing it with

- external criteria, whether it agrees with what is generally known or expected and with
- personal criteria, how it fits with what individual readers know and what they value.

They judge whether what the text says is accurate, acceptable, useful, true, or likely to occur.

Evaluate whether the ideas are likely to occur :   reality or fantasy, whether incidents, events, or characters in a text are likely to occur in real life.

Judge whether something is likely to happen	• Would you expect the incident in the reptile house to happen at the Melbourne Zoo ? • Do you think many children would have to live in cupboards ?
Judge whether something is logical, sensible	Is it possible for a pullover to shrink while you are trying to put it on ?

Evaluate   worth, desirability or acceptability;   readers judge the suitability of a character's actions, the author's views, subject matter or style, for example

• Do you think Uncle Vernon should have blamed Harry for what happened in the reptile house?

Evaluate in terms of your feelings

• How would you have felt if you were Harry being punished for what happened in the reptile house ?
• How would you like Dudley if he was in your class ?