

INFERENCE CHALLENGE: *Lamb to the Slaughter*

YOU ARE THE POLICE
 Put your students in groups and challenge them to solve the case. You will also have to facilitate this challenge, they also have to facilitate this challenge, they also have to facilitate this challenge, they all of the information and questions, they receive the next text. If you have more than 8 students, you can have more than 8 groups.

It is normal for students to struggle, but resist the urge to help them. The whole point of the challenge is for them to figure it out on their own.

Warm-up: (5 min)
 Project the bellringer as an anticipation for how the activity will work.

Share: (5 min)
 Go over responses generated to get the most complete list of possible facts, inferences, and theories. Introduce today's activity, and share that it will be similar in terms of inferencing, but that the mystery will unfold over the course of several texts.

Students do this, but most of my classes have had to be guided as they grow to understand it. They get faster. When they share what they have learned, they share what they have learned.

Text #4

You are wearing a heavy winter coat and there are people all around you for a moment. As you enter the kitchen, your husband is reading the newspaper. You have a conversation with him.

Text #3

Thinking about the story of the Malone woman, you are so tired of the story. You have a conversation with her.

Text #2

You are at Maloney's House. Her husband, Patrick, respects her as a woman. You are a young woman.

Text #1

You are a young police officer who has just joined the force in your sleepy hometown. It is Thursday and your day has dragged on. Aside from writing a report...

FACTS	TEXT #1	TEXT #2	TEXT #3	TEXT #4

Decide what happened to Patrick Maloney. Who killed him and what did they use to do so? What motive might they have? How have your inferences been confirmed or denied?



A PRE-READING SIMULATION

Inference Challenge Warm-Up

Making an inference means to draw reasonable conclusions based on facts, observation, logic, and your own experience. An **inference** is a conclusion about what is happening in the text right now, not a **prediction** about what will happen next. **Try it with this text:**

I walk through white-washed halls and sneak a glimpse into each room I pass. I see colorful balloons in pastel pinks and blues and hear cooing and giggling. Sounds of new joy. I roll my eyes and go find my mom. I hate it here.

	<i>Make an Inference</i>	<i>Support Your Claim</i>
Who is the narrator?		

Start with an introduction and example.

Text #4

You ask Mrs. Maloney for a weapon. She tells you there might be some knives in the kitchen. They are becoming increasingly scarce for and it feels as if...

As you are preparing the kitchen. She tells you her husband's killer is ready and she decides to stay in the room.

Text #3

Thinking that maybe you and your partner are in over your heads, you call up. Soon, other men come into the house: a doctor and then a woman of whom Mrs. Maloney is very fond. So tired he hadn't even cooked the oven - "It's in the oven" - she tells her story for vegetable...

You hang around for a while. Conversation: "Supper... peas." Patrick Maloney looks at you with a heavy hand he could...

Text #2

You alert your partner and rush to Mrs. Maloney's house. Her husband, Maloney, had been a police officer for many years and was well-respected. When you arrive, a Mrs. Maloney answers the door. A woman with large eyes, pale skin and a full stomach that she has eaten at town fundraisers) and you both have come to like her very much. You are very attentive toward her husband - he barely ever lifted a finger...

You sit her down to talk while Noonan checks out the scene. When you calm her down, she tells you that she had gone to the grocery store and found Patrick on the floor. Noonan takes you aside and shows you the dead man's head...

Text #1

Students work through a simulation, articulating facts and making inferences in order to receive the next text.

The Case of Mr. Maloney

This is an interactive Inferences Challenge based on the short story "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl. **Your students will play this before reading the story.** They will work in groups to solve the case, using their inferencing skills along the way.

Keep it a secret!

"Lamb to the Slaughter" tells the story of Mrs. Maloney, a housewife who murders her husband and serves the murder weapon (a leg of lamb) to the police. When you introduce this activity to your students, be sure to tip them off to the murder weapon.

THE INFERENCE CHALLENGE:

Students work in groups and receive one fact at a time. They must list all of the facts, make all of the inferences, and identify the **Key**. This is to assure that they're actually thinking and not just racing to the finish. **If you have a make-up.**

YOU ARE THE POLICE CHIEF:

Put your students in groups of 4-6. You will be the police chief. You also have to facilitate this challenge by asking questions about all of the information and questions, then you will receive the next text. If you have more than one group, you can receive the next text.

It is normal for students to struggle, but that's the whole point of the challenge.

Warm-up: (5 min)

Inferences Challenge

MAKE-UP

Warm Up:

Making an inference means to draw reasonable conclusions based on facts, observation, logic, and your own experience. **Inference** is a conclusion about what is happening in the text right now, not a **prediction** about what will happen next. **Try it with this text:**

I walk
colorful

Inferences Challenge

The Case of Mr. Maloney

MAK

You're a young police officer on the Case of Mr. Maloney. Consider each text carefully and make a list of inferences. You're a budding detective and your budding detective skills are much-needed here!

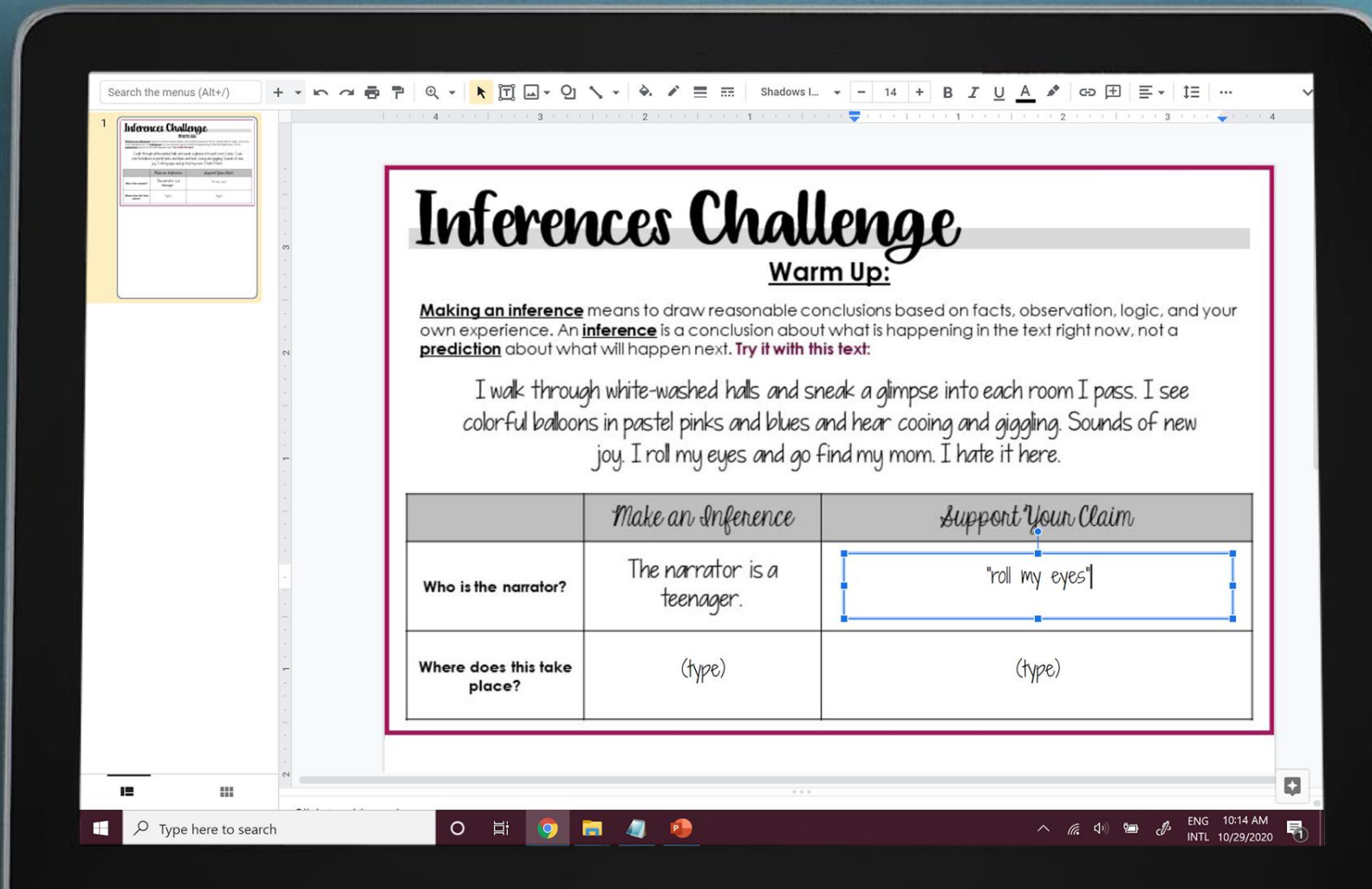
1. Read the text

2. List the facts. These are things you can see or hear in the text.

3. Make inferences. These are things you think are happening, but they are not stated in the text.

4. Make a list of inferences. These are things you think are happening, but they are not stated in the text.

Includes a Teacher's Guide, a version for absent students, and an Answer Key.



INCLUDES DIGITAL VERSION
Warm-up & tasks presented in fillable Google Slides