

INFERENCE CHALLENGE: *The Black Cat*

- of your investigation, but they are always important.
4. Make a list of things you still need to know after each text. These should be in the form of a question. For example, "What was Mr. Grisham doing?" is an important question in solving the mystery. Think of as many questions as you can before calling the Police Chief (your teacher). You won't be able to move on to the next text without the correct questions.

TEXT #1

TEXT #2

TEXT #3

FACTS

INFERENCES

Text #4

When you get to the building, you see a light on in one of the second floor apartments, but all is quiet now. Just as you're about to leave, you hear a man wailing. You climb the stairs and knock on the outside door. "Oh, hello," Mrs. Grisham opens the door, perfectly calm. "What's the matter?"

Text #3

Months later, a tenant from an old apartment building on Third Street calls with a noise complaint. When you arrive at the scene, the whole house is burning. The neighbor had said this was the house. You see a couple of rabbits in the yard, but no sign of the black cat.

Text #2

A couple weeks later, one of the neighbors calls you out to the Grisham house again. When you arrive at the scene, the whole house is burning. and Mrs. Grisham wails in the front yard. All of the dogs in the neighborhood bark loudly. You see a couple of rabbits in the yard, but there's no sign of the black cat.

Text #1

You're a young police officer in a small town, eager to prove yourself. It's a Tuesday afternoon and things are generally slow at the station. You've rearranged your file cabinet twice today. You've double-checked all of your paperwork. Honestly, you just want to do something.



Nouvelle ELA

A PRE-READING SIMULATION

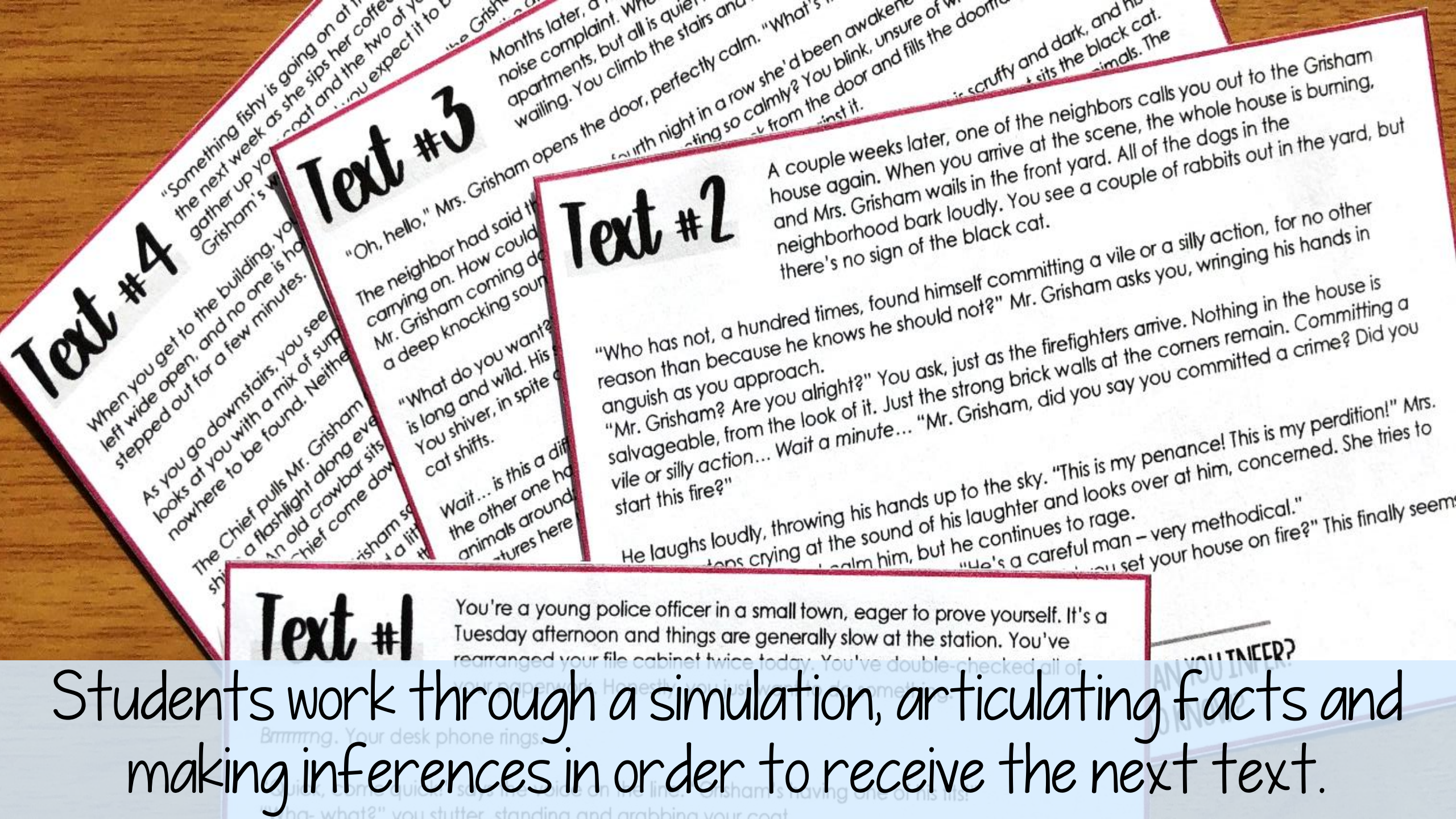
Inference Challenge Warm-Up

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.

	Make an Inference	Support Your Claim
Who is the narrator?		
Where does this story take place?		

Start with an introduction and example.



Text #4

When you get to the building, you find the door left wide open, and no one is home. You've stepped out for a few minutes.

As you go downstairs, you see a mix of surprise and nowhere to be found. Neither the Chief nor Mr. Grisham are there.

The Chief pulls Mr. Grisham aside and shows him a flashlight along with a crowbar. The Chief comes down the stairs with a lit crowbar.

Text #3

"Oh, hello," Mrs. Grisham says. The neighbor had said the carrying on. How could Mr. Grisham come down a deep knocking sound?

"What do you want? is long and wild. His You shiver, in spite of cat shifts.

Wait... is this a different one? the other one had animals around. Figures here.

Text #2

"Who has not, a hundred times, found himself committing a vile or a silly action, for no other reason than because he knows he should not?" Mr. Grisham asks you, wringing his hands in anguish as you approach.

"Mr. Grisham? Are you alright?" You ask, just as the firefighters arrive. Nothing in the house is salvageable, from the look of it. Just the strong brick walls at the corners remain. Committing a vile or silly action... Wait a minute... "Mr. Grisham, did you say you committed a crime? Did you start this fire?"

He laughs loudly, throwing his hands up to the sky. "This is my penance! This is my perdition!" Mrs. Grisham starts crying at the sound of his laughter and looks over at him, concerned. She tries to calm him, but he continues to rage.

"He's a careful man - very methodical."

"He's a careful man - very methodical."

Text #1

You're a young police officer in a small town, eager to prove yourself. It's a Tuesday afternoon and things are generally slow at the station. You've rearranged your file cabinet twice today. You've double-checked all of your paperwork. Honestly, you're just bored.

Brrrrring. Your desk phone rings. You pick up the receiver. "Hello?"

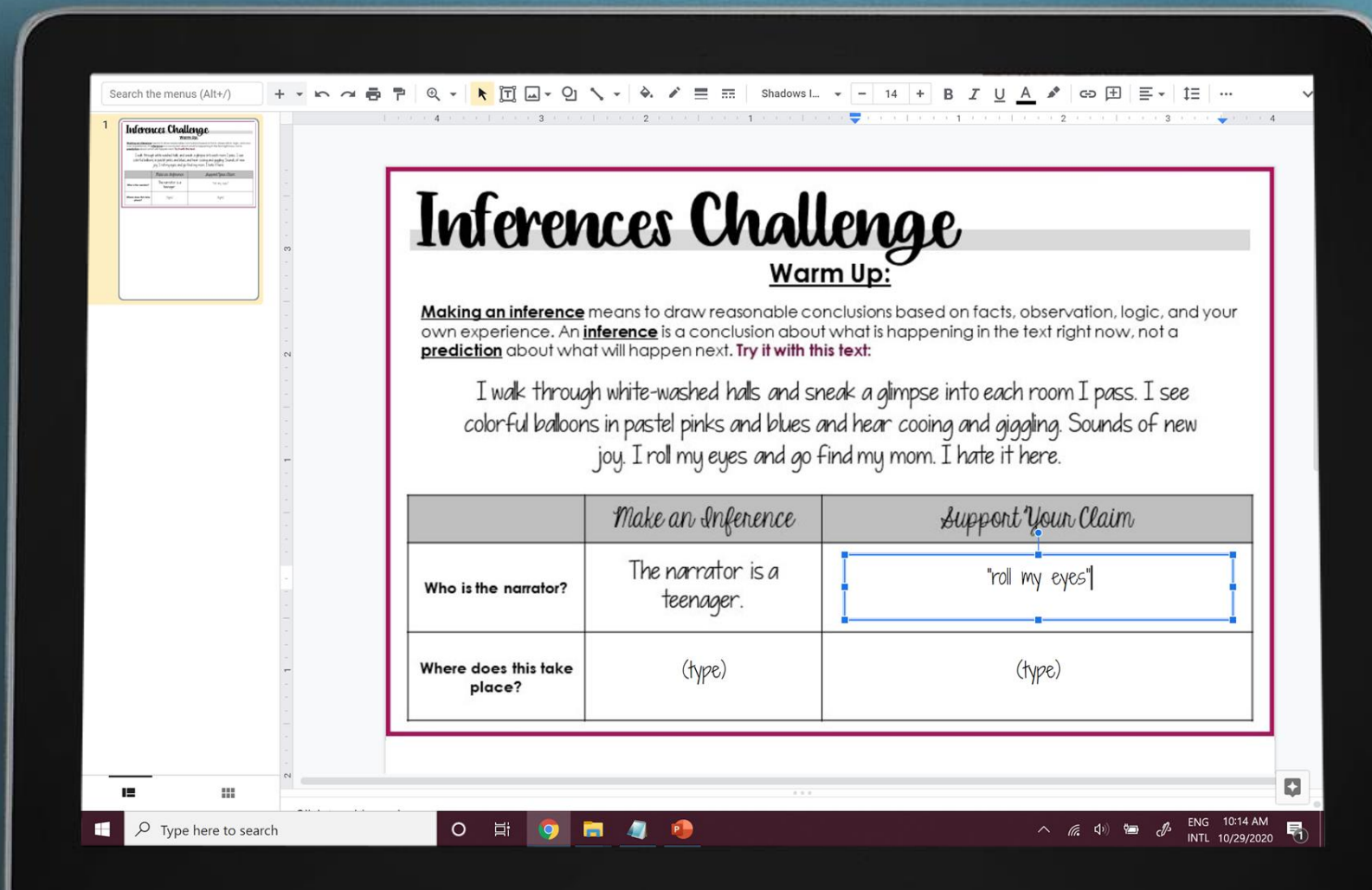
"Quiet, come quiet," says the voice on the line. Grisham's having one of his hissing fits. "What's going on?" you stutter, standing and grabbing your coat.

Months later, a noise complaint. What apartments, but all is quiet. You climb the stairs and wailing. You open the door, perfectly calm. "What's going on?"

Fourth night in a row she'd been awakened by the same sound. You blink, unsure of what to do. You look from the door and fills the doorway with a dark, and his scruffy and dark, and his sits the black cat. The animals. The

A couple weeks later, one of the neighbors calls you out to the Grisham house again. When you arrive at the scene, the whole house is burning, and Mrs. Grisham wails in the front yard. All of the dogs in the neighborhood bark loudly. You see a couple of rabbits out in the yard, but there's no sign of the black cat.

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



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

The Offenses of Mr. Grisham

This is an interactive Inferences Challenge based on the short story "The Black Cat" by Edgar Allan Poe. **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!

"The Black Cat" is the confession of a murder before going to his execution. Throughout his final year, he struggled with alcoholism and a violent temper, culminating in the murder of his life. Students won't know that this case ends in murder – most of the game seems like fairly harmless noise complaints until the incidents become more sinister.

THE INFERENCES CHALLENGE:

Students work in groups and receive one text at a time. In order to move to the next text, they must list all of the facts, make all of the inferences, and ask all of the questions. **Key.** This is to assure that they're actually doing the work of comprehension instead of just racing to the finish. **If you have students who are a make-up.**

YOU ARE THE POLICE CHIEF:

Put your students in groups of 4-6. You want all of the students to participate. Also have to facilitate this challenge by checking in with them. All of the information and questions, they will ask for you to receive the next text. If you have more than 6 groups, you

It is normal for students to struggle, but resist the urge to tell them the whole point of the challenge.

Warm-up: (5 min)

Project the bellringer as an anticipation for how the case

Text #1

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Brrrrring. Your desk phone rings.

"Quick, come quick!" says the voice.

"Wha- what?" you stutter.

"Old Man Grisham is in a fit!"

MAKE-UP

Inferences 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. I see a man in a white lab coat and a woman in a pink dress. I roll my eyes and go find my mom. I have a giggle. Sound of a door closing.

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