

KEY WORDS IN BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

Main Idea

- **DEFINITION:** The big idea in a paragraph or passage.
- **EXAMPLE:** This passage is about how people lived during the Renaissance.

Purpose

- **DEFINITION:** The author's reason for writing the passage.
- **EXAMPLE:** The author wants to convince the reader to exercise each day.

Summary

- **DEFINITION:** A short statement that tells about a long passage.
- **EXAMPLE:** The passage is a story about a man who breaks his arm and learns a lesson.

Message

- **DEFINITION:** The author's communication in writing to the reader. What the author wants the reader to know or understand.
- **EXAMPLE:** The author wants us to understand that people should not say mean things about other people.

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KEY WORDS IN PREDICTING QUESTIONS

Next**Future****Happen****Will****Down the road****End****Ending****Effect**

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FACTUAL QUESTIONS

- Require finding a fact in the information that you have read.
- The answer is right there in the passage.

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STEPS FOR THE INFERENCE STRATEGY

Interact with the questions and the passage

Note what you know

Find the clues

Explore any supporting details

Return to the question

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KEY WORDS IN BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

(continued)

Theme

- **DEFINITION:** Another word for “message” or what the author wants the reader to know.
- **EXAMPLE:** The theme of this passage is that being safe is better than being sorry.

Setting

- **DEFINITION:** The place in which the story is located.
- **EXAMPLE:** This takes place in the African jungle.

Tone

- **DEFINITION:** The feeling of the passage. The emotions the author is expressing through the use of certain words like adjectives and adverbs.
- **EXAMPLE:** This passage is an angry passage. The author shows anger through the ways Peter acts by throwing things and yelling.

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Inference Strategy

Cue Card #16

CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

Require you to make
sense of something

- Explain something
- Give a cause
- Give a reason
- Explain feelings
- Compare something
- Contrast something

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Inference Strategy

Cue Card #2

PASSAGE

Cell Phones

People are talking on cell phones more and more around the world. In the United States, cell phone usage grew from 340,000 subscribers in 1985 to 158 million in 2005. Today, Americans spend an average of seven hours a month talking on their cell phones. That figure is low compared to some Asian societies. One of the highest rates is in Israel, where 76% of the population has cell phones.

Cell phones have both psychological appeal and practical advantages. They are a status symbol and help people to feel special and important. Cell phones can also improve convenience and safety. In one country, people use them to switch on the heat while they are driving home. A cell phone user can call for help if her car breaks down, especially at night. Travelers and children can phone home to assure their family that they have arrived safely at their destinations.

Cell phones can also cause problems. People who use their cell phones while driving are more likely to have accidents. Ringing cell phones often interrupt movies, church services, lectures, and concerts. People speaking on their cell phones in subways can ruin the peace of mind of other passengers. A questionnaire found that 59% of people would rather visit the dentist than sit next to someone using a cell phone. Rude cell phone users have sometimes been violently attacked, for example, with pepper spray by movie goers or by being rammed with cars.

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of this passage?
2. How many hours a month do Americans talk on their cell phones?
3. How do the advantages of cell phones compare to their disadvantages?

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Inference Strategy

Cue Card #7

EXAMPLE FACTUAL QUESTIONS

- What color is the boy’s hair?
- What is the name of the girl’s best friend?
- How many years have the people lived in their house?
- Where is the train going?
- Who is on the boat with the lady?
- When did the man arrive?
- Which dog bit the child?

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PURPOSES FOR WRITING

- **Entertain**
- **Inform**
- **Persuade**

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

- **Factual Question**
The answer is right there in the passage.

- **Think and Seek Question**

The answer is not in the passage.

EXAMPLE CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

- What do you think the author meant when she used the word “satisfied” in Paragraph 1?
- What was Jason trying to do when he hid the money?
- How do you think Paula was feeling when she went to the store?
- What caused Mrs. Jones to give away the puppy?
- What do you think the reason was for his angry behavior?
- How does Jim’s behavior compare to Pedro’s behavior?
- How does the parade contrast with previous parades?

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD ANSWERS

- **Is a complete thought**
 - Has a subject
 - Has a verb
- **Is related to information in the passage**
- **Answers the question**

PREDICTING QUESTIONS

- Require you to make a guess or forecast about what will happen in the future.
- Require you to base your forecast on information you have read.

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“INFER” MEANS...

Guess the best answer based on the information you already know

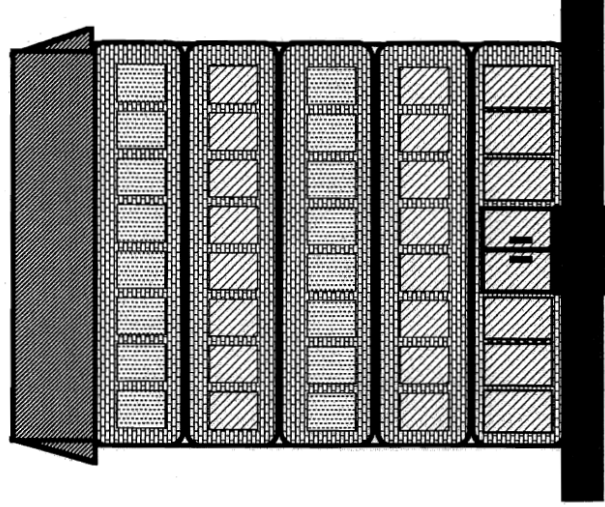
Inference Strategy

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Cue Card #9

BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE BASE



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BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

- Require you to figure out the main idea or big message or theme of the passage.
- May ask for the purpose of the writer.
- May ask for summary information
 - setting
 - tone

EXAMPLE PREDICTING QUESTIONS

- What do you think will happen next?
- What is the most likely event to happen next?
- What will the main character do next?
- What will happen to the boy in the future?
- Where will the boy hide?
- Who will help her?
- When will she be found?
- Which of his friends will stay over night?
- If you were to finish this story, how would it end?

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TYPES OF QUESTIONS

- Factual Questions
- Think and Seek Questions
- Big Picture Questions
- Predicting Questions
- Clarifying Questions

EXAMPLE BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

- What is the main idea of this passage?
- What is the author's main message?
- What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
- What is the theme of this passage?
- What was the author's purpose in writing this passage?
- What is the setting of this story?
- What is the tone of this passage?
- Which of these statements summarizes what this passage is about?

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