

## INFERENCE AND PREDICTION



All day, every day, we are constantly making inferences yet when we introduce this strategy to our students, they completely melt down. Inference is using facts from the text along with your own knowledge and reasoning to make an assumption.

Prediction on the other hand uses information in the text to guess what may happen next.

For instance, if the author described a boy putting on a jersey, pads, and a helmet, we can **infer** that he is a football player. We can **predict** that he is probably getting ready to play a game or go to practice.

Ask a student to come to the front of the room and ask the class to infer what they can about that student that they did not already know. If the student was wearing an Oklahoma City Thunder t-shirt, you can infer that he or she likes basketball and/or the OKC Thunder.

In an article in April 2010 edition of Educational Leadership, Robert Marzano suggest 4 questions for teachers to use to guide students in making effective inferences:

- **What is my inference?**  
The student fills in information that was not presented in the text.
- **What information did I use to make the inference?**  
The student makes connections and uses prior knowledge.
- **How good was my thinking?**  
The students can explain his or her thinking and consider other possibilities.
- **Do I need to change my thinking?**  
The student is constantly update their thinking.

