



# Make Inferences and Use Evidence to Support Understanding

**R/S Figure 19(D)** Make inferences about text and use textual evidence to support understanding.

## Understand the TEKS

An **inference** is a guess that you make based on reason. This means that you are not guessing wildly; instead, you have **evidence**, or proof, to support your guess. The more evidence you use to make an inference, the more likely you are to be correct.

You make inferences anytime you read a text, whether it is a fictional story or a factual magazine article.

Sometimes, an author directly tells you information and you do not need to make an inference.

It was extremely hot in the living room.

Other times, an author shows you information, and it is up to you to infer the full meaning.

Although it was unlit, the wax candle in the living room began to melt that day.

Without the first sentence, you can still infer from the details in the second sentence that it was extremely hot in the living room. Making an inference requires you to combine details in the text with information you already know, like the fact that wax melts in hot weather. By reading carefully and applying what you know, you will be able to fill in the gaps of a text with sound inferences.

A **conclusion** is a type of inference. It is a judgment based on reasoning. When you read a text, you form conclusions by combining related details into an informed decision about the subject. For example, imagine that you read that bison were a popular target for early American hunters because they were so plentiful. Then you read that national parks are now working on increasing bison numbers to prevent their extinction. From these details, you can reasonably conclude that hunting greatly reduced the bison population.



### Did You Know?

**Comprehension** Connect an author's ideas and experiences to your own. This will help you infer what the author means.

## ★ Practice

Read the selection below. Then answer the questions that follow it.

## My Korean Name

*by Leonard Chang*

- 1 My grandfather left Korea to live with us in New York when he was almost eighty years old. My parents fixed up the attic so that he had his own room.
- 2 He wore traditional Korean clothes: shiny vests with gold buttons, and puffy pants that made his legs look fat even though he was really very skinny. He chewed on small dried fish snacks that smelled up everything. He coughed a lot.
- 3 My grandfather spoke only Korean, so I never understood what he was saying. He scared me. I had never seen anyone so old so close.
- 4 "Take this tea up to your halabogee," my mother told me soon after he had moved in.
- 5 "I don't want to," I said.
- 6 "He's your grandfather," she scolded. "Be nice to him."
- 7 I brought up the steaming cup of tea, hearing him cough once, twice, and again. I peeked around the corner and said, "Here's your tea." He looked up at me, chewing his dried fish snack, and smiled.
- 8 He began speaking Korean to me, but I didn't understand him. He waved me over and continued talking.
- 9 "What? What? I don't understand Korean," I said. "I never learned."
- 10 "Aigoo," he said, which was like "Oh my!" in Korean. My mother said that word to me all the time. He waved his finger at me and said, "Korean important. Yes?"
- 11 "I guess so," I said, surprised. So he did speak a little English.



- 12 He smiled and nodded and sipped his tea loudly. He began speaking to me in Korean again. He talked for a long time, and I didn't understand a single word. I said, "Grandpa, I told you I can't understand you!"
- 13 But he just smiled and nodded and kept on talking. After awhile, I just listened. I liked the sound of his raspy voice filling the warm attic.
- 14 My mother gave my grandfather a colorful shiny hand fan that he used to keep himself cool during the hot afternoons.
- 15 My father gave him a small transistor radio, which my grandfather listened to late at night, tuned to the Korean Gospel station.
- 16 My mother also gave him a goat-hair brush, rice paper, an ink stick, and an inkstone to practice his calligraphy, a special kind of writing.
- 17 One day I was watching him draw lines on the paper. He looked up and said, "You." I was surprised. Another English word.
- 18 "Me," I said.
- 19 He smiled, his face wrinkling.
- 20 "You," he said again. "Won Chul."
- 21 "Me," I said. "Won Chul is my middle name."
- 22 He nodded and dipped his brush in the inkstone, shaking off some of the extra ink. "You," he said. "Won Chul."
- 23 "I know my middle name," I said, getting annoyed.
- 24 He talked to me in Korean again for a long time, then motioned for me to come closer.
- 25 I walked to him. He smelled like mothballs and fish.
- 26 He drew some stick figures overlapping each other, swirling his brush easily, quickly. "Won," he said, pointing.
- 27 He drew another figure, this time going slowly. The brush made a swish sound on the thin rice paper. He pointed to this second figure and said, "Chul." Bringing me nearer so that I could study the picture, he said, "Won Chul. You."

28 "That's my name?"

29 He nodded. "Won Chul."

30 "That looks neat," I said.

31 He pushed it toward me.

32 "For me?" I asked.

33 "For Won Chul," he said.

34 My mother later told me that this was hanja, a special Korean way of writing using the Chinese alphabet. This was the hanja version of my Korean name. She said, "Your grandfather was once a famous artist. All the people in his town wanted him to draw their names."

35 "Wow," I said, holding the rice paper carefully.

36 "You know what your name means, don't you?" she said. "It means 'Wise One.' Do you remember?"

37 "I remember," I said. I held up my Korean name to the light, the paper so thin it glowed.

38 Not too long after that my grandfather went to a nursing home, and during the next summer he died while I was away at camp. My father turned the attic into a storage room. Now it's filled with dusty boxes of old clothes and shoes and old furniture.

39 I still have the drawing of my Korean name. My mother had it framed for me, and it hangs in my room right now. I wonder what my grandfather used to tell me those afternoons when he spoke in Korean, going on and on in this strange language that I never learned. Maybe he was telling me stories. Maybe he was telling me about his life in Korea.

40 Sometimes, if I go up into the attic and listen very carefully, I can almost hear his voice rising and falling, telling me stories I don't understand. I can almost see him in the corner, hunched over, listening to his radio and fanning himself. I can see him swishing his brush over the rice paper, and then pointing to me, telling me my own name.



**1** Why does Won Chul tell his mother that he does not want to take tea to his grandfather?

- A** He is frightened by his grandfather’s age and appearance.
- B** He is embarrassed that he never learned his grandfather’s language.
- C** He is angry that his grandfather had never visited before.
- D** He is worried that his grandfather will dislike him.

**2** Which sentence from the passage supports the inference that Won Chul is annoyed by his grandfather?

- F** *My grandfather left Korea to live with us in New York when he was almost eighty years old.*
- G** *I said, "Grandpa, I told you I can't understand you!"*
- H** *"Me," I said. "Won Chul is my middle name."*
- J** *Sometimes, if I go up into the attic and listen very carefully, I can almost hear his voice rising and falling, telling me stories I don't understand.*

**3** Based on the text, what is the Korean word for *grandfather*?

- A** Hanja
- B** Aigoo
- C** Won Chul
- D** Halabogee

**4** What can you infer from the fact that Won Chul’s grandfather insisted on speaking to him in Korean?

- F** He thought his grandson could understand him.
- G** He only knew one word in English.
- H** He wanted to share his culture with his grandson.
- J** He was giving Won Chul lessons on how to speak Korean.

**5** Which detail supports the inference that the grandfather came to live in New York because he was ill?

- A** He wore baggy clothing.
- B** He ate dried fish snacks.
- C** He smelled like mothballs.
- D** He coughed a lot.

**6** Which sentence from the passage supports the inference that Won Chul was impressed to learn his grandfather used to be a famous artist?

- F** *Bringing me nearer so that I could study the picture, he said, "Won Chul. You."*
- G** *"Wow," I said, holding the rice paper carefully.*
- H** *Not too long after that my grandfather went to a nursing home, and during the next summer he died while I was away at camp.*
- J** *I can see him swishing his brush over the rice paper, and then pointing to me, telling me my own name.*

**7** What can you infer from the fact that Won Chul has the drawing of his Korean name hanging in his bedroom?

- A** He keeps it there to inspire his own artistic work.
- B** He keeps it there just to make his mother happy.
- C** He keeps it there because he hopes it will be worth money someday.
- D** He keeps it there because it is special to him.

**8** Which paragraph contains evidence that Won Chul's attitude toward his grandfather is changing?

- F** Paragraph 23
- G** Paragraph 25
- H** Paragraph 30
- J** Paragraph 33

**9** Based on the text, what is the best interpretation of the story?

- A** A grandfather intimidates his grandson into learning the Korean language.
- B** A grandfather tells his life story to a patient grandson, even though they speak different languages.
- C** A grandson comes to respect and learn from his grandfather, even though they are very different.
- D** A grandson refuses to serve tea to his visiting grandfather and later regrets his cruelty.

**10** Which sentence from the passage supports the inference that Won Chul found his grandfather less annoying over time?

- F** *He looked up at me, chewing his dried fish snack, and smiled.*
- G** *He talked for a long time, and I didn't understand a single word.*
- H** *I liked the sound of his raspy voice filling the warm attic.*
- J** *One day I was watching him draw lines on the paper.*

**11** Read the sentences from paragraphs 10 and 11.

*He waved his finger at me and said, "Korean important. Yes?"*  
*"I guess so," I said, surprised.*

What inference do these sentences support?

- A** Won Chul thinks Korean is a boring language.
- B** Won Chul's Korean heritage has had little importance to him.
- C** Won Chul's parents have not told him very much about his grandfather.
- D** Won Chul is more interested in his grandfather than he appears to be.