



Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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**Drawing conclusions** means figuring something out for yourself. To draw conclusions, you need to think about what *makes the most sense*.

**Making Inferences** is using what you *already know* in addition to what *the story says*.

**Drawing conclusions** and **making inferences** helps you understand a story better.

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As you read the story, think about what you *already know* in addition to what the story says. Try to figure out what the story means by thinking about what *makes the most sense*.

The Hare and the Tortoise

The beasts of the forest had long argued about who was the fastest—the Hare or the Tortoise. So a race was arranged. “I welcome this contest,” the Tortoise said. The Hare was harder to convince. “This is ridiculous nonsense,” he said. But finally he agreed.

Race day arrived, and the Tortoise started down the path. “Run hard!” shouted the Tortoise’s fans. The Hare stood looking down the path. “Ridiculous nonsense,” he muttered, and then he dashed off down the path. “Run hard!” shouted the Hare’s fans. The Hare ran for a while and then stopped. He looked around, but the Tortoise was nowhere in sight. The Hare sat down and scratched himself. “Run hard!” shouted the Hare’s fans. “Let him rest!” shouted the others.

When the Hare saw the Tortoise coming, he got up and ran for a while more. Then he sat down and scratched himself. This went on until the Hare was almost to the finish line where all the animals of the forest were gathered. Suddenly, it struck him how foolish he looked running a race with a Tortoise who was nowhere in sight. He sat down again. Some say he slept. The Tortoise won, and all the animals cheered. “How did you do it?” someone asked. “Slow and steady wins the race,” the Tortoise replied. And that is the moral of this story. It also became a popular saying among all the animals, and especially among the snails.



Use what you *already know* and what the *story* says to **make inferences**:

1. Why did the Hare say the race was “ridiculous nonsense”?
 - A. The Hare did not want to be embarrassed if he lost the race.
 - B. The Hare knew that he could run much faster than the Tortoise.
 - C. The Hare was angry at the other animals of the forest.
2. When the Hare turned around, why didn’t he see the Tortoise behind him?
 - A. The Tortoise was on a different path.
 - B. The Tortoise had sat down to rest.
 - C. The Hare was very far ahead of the Tortoise.
3. Why did the Hare keep sitting down during the race?
 - A. The Hare still thought the race was ridiculous.
 - B. The Hare could only run for short distances.
 - C. The Hare wanted the Tortoise to win the race.
4. Why didn’t the Hare jump up and run when the Tortoise approached the finish line?
 - A. The Hare was probably asleep, and didn’t see the Tortoise.
 - B. The Hare made a wrong turn, and the Tortoise went the right way.
 - C. The Tortoise went so slowly that the Hare didn’t see him.

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Think about *what makes the most sense*, to **draw a conclusion**:

The Tortoise won, and all the animals cheered. “How did you do it?” someone asked. “Slow and steady wins the race,” the Tortoise replied. And that is the moral of this story. It also became a popular saying among all the animals, and especially among the Snails.

5. This is probably because:
  - A. The Snails and the Tortoise were good friends.
  - B. The Snails liked the saying, because Snails are also very slow.
  - C. The Snails were smarter than the other beasts of the forest.

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6. Draw another conclusion: What lesson is this story meant to teach?



Answer Key

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. B
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, determination is more important than speed.