



# READING 2

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## Chapter 1

### Interpretation and Evaluation: Inferring information

#### Learning objectives

Following this meeting, you should be able to be aware of the importance of active reading and questioning content while reading

#### TIPS FOR BUILDING INFERENCE SKILLS

- “Try to read beyond the words. Fill in details and information based on the writer’s suggestions.
- “Question yourself as you read. “Why is Sally hiding the money?” you might have asked as you read. “Why are there clouds and lightning in the sky?” Supply the answers on the basis of the writer’s hints and your own experience.
- “If a writer describes a person, try to understand the person from how she moves, what she says, what she looks like. You can infer things about character from the
- 5way a person behaves. Try to build a picture of the person in your mind; base your picture on the writer’s description of action and appearance.
- “If you find that you cannot easily answer a question about what you have read, remember to use inference skills. Return to the part of the reading where you expect the answers. Then see if the writer suggests something that you yourself have to supply in clearer terms”. (Wiener & Bazerman, 1988, pp. 155-156).

#### Activity 1: Inferences

Directions:

Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details. Explain your answer by referencing the text.

Kyle ran into his house, slamming the door behind him. He threw his book bag on the floor and plopped on the couch. After six hours of playing *Grand Larceny VII*, he ate some pizza and fell asleep with a slice in on his belly and his feet on his book bag. When Kyle came home from school the next day, he was noticeably distraught. He balled up his report card and placed it inside of a soup can in the garbage. He then flipped the soup can upside down

and relocated garbage from other parts of the can, arranging over the soup can. He then plopped down on the couch and picked up his controller.

1. Why is Kyle distraught?

How do you know this?

2. Why does Kyle put the report card in a soup can?

How do you know this?

3. Was Kyle's report card good or bad and why was it like that?

How do you know this?

Anastasia sat by the fountain in the park with her head in her palms. She was weeping mournfully and wearing all black. In between gasps and sobs, Anastasia cried out a name: "Oh... John..." And then her cell phone beeped. Her hand ran into her purse and her heart fluttered. The text message was from John. She opened up the message and read the few bare words, "*I need to get my jacket back from you.*" Anastasia threw her head into her arms and continued sobbing.

4. What relationship do John and Anastasia have?

Why do you feel this way?

5. Why is Anastasia sad?

How do you know this?

Cassie rolled over in her bed as she felt the sunlight hit her face. The beams were warming the back of her neck when she slowly realized that it was a Thursday, and she felt a little too good for a Thursday. Struggling to open her eyes, she looked up at the clock. "9:48," she shouted, "Holy cow!" Cassie jumped out of bed, threw on the first outfit that she grabbed, brushed her teeth in two swipes, threw her books into her backpack, and then ran out the door.

6. What problem is Cassie having?

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How do you know this?

7. Where is Cassie going?

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How do you know this?

Kelvin was waiting in front of the corner store at 3:56. His muscles were tense and he was sweating a bit more than usual. The other kids gathered in front of the little storefront were much more relaxed, even playful. They joked back and forth lightly to each other but for Kelvin, time slowed. 3:57. “Don’t worry, Kelvin. He ain’t even gonna show up.” Kelvin hoped that he wouldn’t. A black four-door Camry with tinted windows pulled up and parked across the street. Kelvin gulped. 3:58. A group of teenagers piled out of the car. James was in the front. “Hi-ya, Kelvin. Glad you could make it,” James said. Kelvin felt smaller.

8. Why is Kelvin waiting at the corner store?

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How do you know this?

9. Are James and Kelvin friends?

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What in the text supports your idea?

10. Why is Kelvin so nervous?

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What in the text supports your idea?

Taken from <http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-reading-worksheets/reading-comprehension-worksheets/inferences-worksheets/>

### Activity 2: Teratorn

Instructions:

1. Write *yes* before the sentences that can be inferred and write *no* before the ones that cannot be inferred.
2. Then underline the main idea and fill in the type of supporting details used.

It's believed that the largest bird ever to fly was the giant Teratorn. Fossils of this bird found in Argentina showed that it had a wingspan of twenty-five feet and was the size of a man. Remains of this mammoth bird have been found in Argentina, Florida, Nevada, northern Mexico, and California. The largest bird flying today is the Andean condor, with a wingspan of only ten feet

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The largest animal ever to fly was a bird
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The teratorn hunted humans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The teratorn had feathers,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The teratorn was larger than any modern flying bird.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Feathers from this giant bird have been found.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The teratorn was found in several part of the world.

(Taken from Minnette Lenier, p 35)

### Activity 3: What can you infer?

Instructions:

1. Read the paragraph and infer it.
2. Answer the questions

O. Henry, whose real name was William Sydney Porter, wrote the short story "The Gift of the Magi."

It was published in 1910. Below are the opening paragraphs of the story. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below.

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies.

Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

1. Why is Della crying?

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2. What does Christmas have to do with her tears?

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3. How did she get the money?

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4. What does O. Henry mean by “with sniffles predominating”?

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(Taken from [http://www.k12reader.com/inference/gr45%20%20inference\\_practice\\_where\\_am\\_i.pdf](http://www.k12reader.com/inference/gr45%20%20inference_practice_where_am_i.pdf))

## References

- Maker, Janet. Lenier, Minnette, (1991). *College Reading Book. Third Edition.* California:Wadsworth.
- Mikulecky, B. S. & Jeffries, L. (1996). *More reading power.* Boston: Longman.
- Wiener, H. S. & Bazerman, C. (1988). *Reading skills handbook.* (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin

## Chapter 2

### Interpretation and Evaluation: Evaluating Ideas (Fact and Opinion)

#### Learning objectives

Following this meeting, you should be able to differentiate between fact and opinion

#### Evaluating Ideas

Critical reading is an evaluative activity while reading a text. There is an interaction between writers and readers intensively while reading. The writers express whatever idea to represent the aspired meaning and the readers figure the message. Careful readers try to interpret the meaning in the line or between the lines critically. They must be able to read in a *critical* way – which means that they have to *evaluate* ideas once they understand them. Thus, readers know exactly the truth in text, the flows of the writers' idea and are confident to draw a conclusion. By reading critically, it is not only developing the ability to comprehend the message and draw conclusion, but also trigger critical thinking. It can be said that critical reading and critical thinking is born in the same time while the process of interaction is in progress between the writers and the readers everyday even they realise this condition or not. This condition does not stop at that step. It leads the readers to act and response critically in daily life. Then, this beneficial action forms good characters. Readers are no longer passive participants who take everything is written in the text, without questioning the ideas. They start judging and evaluating information critically, and decide to accept or refuse the writers' ideas.

#### Fact and opinion

“Most reading samples contain ideas based on fact *and* opinion. Of course it is not always easy to keep the two apart. A writer often combines the two in such a way that you do not always notice where fact ends and opinion begins... You want to be able to distinguish between two types of statements as you read.

“*Facts* are statements that tell what really happened or really is the case. A fact is based on direct evidence. It is something known by actual experience or observation.

“*Opinions* are statements of belief, judgment, or feeling. They show what someone

thinks about a subject. Solid opinions, of course, are based on facts. However, opinions are still somebody's point of view of something and are not facts themselves" (Wiener & Bazerman, 1988, pp. 196-197).

For example:

**Fact**            Milk contains calcium.

**Opinion**        Americans should drink more milk.

### **Activity 1: Distinguishing fact and opinion**

Instructions:

1. Determine which of the following statements seem to be facts and which seem to be opinion.
2. In each case, what kind of verification would you require in order to accept the statement as reliable?
3. Explain your decisions in writing, and be prepared to discuss your choices in class.
  - a. Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1993.
  - b. Women often earn less money than men holding the same positions.
  - c. *The Lion King* was the best movie ever made about animals.
  - d. The oldest city in the United States is Santa Fe.
  - e. Running is good for your health. The United States won the Second World War.
  - f. In combination, ammonia and chlorine bleach result in poisonous gas.
  - g. Researchers will find a cure for AIDS.

(Adapted from Glenn *et al.*, 2004, p. 504)

### **Activity 2: Distinguishing fact and opinion 2**

Directions: Choose Fact if the statement could be researched and verified (it would be a fact) or disproved (it would be a false statement of fact). Choose Opinion if a statement represents an opinion (a belief or judgment that cannot be proved or disproved). If it is an opinion, note any judgment words in the sentence. Judgment words are words such as better, expensive, beautiful and other words that can be interpreted many different ways. Judgment words usually indicate an opinion.



Example:

College exams are too long.

A. Fact

B. Opinion

Explanation: The answer is B. Opinion. The words too long can mean several things and can be interpreted several ways. This statement cannot be proved or disproved, so it represents an opinion.

1. Last year there was a horrible outbreak of flu.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

2. Babies generally start to talk between 18 and 24 months of age.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

3. The average temperature in Wyoming in January is 35°F.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

4. Italian is an easier language to learn than Spanish.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

5. The capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is Moscow.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

6. More people stopped smoking last year than two years ago.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

7. In Judaism, Rosh Hashanah is the festival of the New Year.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

8. Many nutritionists believe a low-carbohydrate, high-protein diet is the healthiest diet.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

9. Smoke detectors can help save lives.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

10. Thousands of people die each year from the interaction of their prescription drugs.

a) Fact

b) Opinion

(Taken from [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007256380x/student\\_view0/part4/chapter13/supplemental\\_exercises\\_1.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007256380x/student_view0/part4/chapter13/supplemental_exercises_1.html))

### **Activity 3 : Fact and Opinion**

Directions: Read each statement and then circle whether it is a fact or opinion.

Explain your answer.

1. The fastest land dwelling creature is the Cheetah.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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2. Michael Jordan has a career average of 30.4 points per game.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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3. George Washington was the first President of the United States under the Constitution.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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4. The ugliest sea creature is the manatee.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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5. Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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6. There seems to be too much standardized testing in public schools.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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7. Prison is one of the worst places on the planet.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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8. It is wrong for people under the age of 21 to drink alcohol.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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9. *Sister Carrie* was written by Theodore Dreiser.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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10. *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* won eleven Oscars (Academy Awards).

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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## References

Glenn, C. Miller, R. K., Webb, S. S., Gray, L. & Hodges, J. C. (2004). Hodges' Harbrace Handbook. USA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Wiener, H. S. & Bazerman, C. (1988). *Reading skills handbook*. (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

## Chapter 3

### Interpretation and Evaluation: Writer's techniques

#### Learning objectives

Following this meeting, you should be able to recognize the writer's techniques by studying their technique.

#### Writer's techniques



##### Tone

- Humorous
- Objective
- Neutral
- Positive
- Favorable
- comic
- etc



##### Attitude

- Agreement
- Respectful
- Regretful
- Emotional
- Pessimistic
- Critical
- etc



##### Feeling

- Amused
- Angry
- Admired
- Disappointed
- Amazed
- Worried
- Embrarrassed
- Compassionate
- etc

An important way to develop critical skills is to be aware of the writer's technique in any selection you read. Once you know what the writer is doing with his or her material – once you know what effect he or she is trying to create – you can judge what is said more fairly and clearly.

#### Style

In general, *style* is the way a writer picks words and puts them together. The style usually tells you whom the writer expects to read the work. If the sentences are long and the words difficult, the writer expects an educated reader. If the language is rich in slang expressions and current phrases, the writer is talking to a more general group.

#### Tone

*Tone* is the attitude the writer takes toward a subject. Authors may write about something they respect or about something they hate. A writer may be angry. A writer

may be impatient. A writer may take a humorous view of a subject. Or a writer may be ironic – saying one thing but really meaning the opposite.

### **Mood**

*Mood* is a state of mind or feeling at a particular time. Often writers create a mood so that they can make you respond in a certain way.

### **Purpose**

Writers write for a reason. Some wish to give information. Some want to persuade you to believe something. Others try to push you into taking some action related to a subject of deep meaning to them. Some writers write to amuse or entertain.

Advertising is a good example of writing with a purpose – that is, writing to make you buy a certain product. Another example is editorials in newspapers. Editorials aim at gaining public support for a political position.

### **Point of view**

A writer's own beliefs and ideas often determine how he or she looks at a given subject. In this sense, point of view means 'opinions' or 'attitudes', though there are a number of other meanings that make it a rather complex term to use. Our concern here is for the way a writer's own interests and beliefs influence the writing we read. A communist, for example, would look at Cuban government in a very different way from a man or woman who believes in democracy.

Sometimes an author's point of view forces him or her to slant the writing. Slanted writing leans toward one way of looking at a problem and leaves out ideas that might disagree.

Of course, these techniques often blend together in any sample of writing. Style and tone are not often possible to separate, and they both clearly relate to purpose and point of view. Also, the writer's style often creates a mood.

Furthermore, an author's technique often yields many results. Writing may be both humorous and ironic. An author may wish to give information in order to persuade you to do something, and in so doing he or she may write in a style that is very emotional (Wiener & Bazerman, 1988, pp. 213-215).

## Activity 1: The writer's technique

### Instructions

1. Read the following statements.
2. Below the statements a series of questions appears. In the blank space, write the letter of the statement that answers the question. You may use the same letter more than once. You may use more than one letter for each answer.

I. The high impact of this audio-video system could change your whole lifestyle. Because this system produces images so vivid and sounds so real, you are transported into a whole new era of home entertainment.

II. If you have received a mailing label from us, please use it. Make sure information on the label is correct. If it is not, cross out what is wrong and mark corrections directly on the label. If you have not received a label, print or type your name, address, and Social Security number.

III. Instead of teaching liberty, the US foreign relations apparatus has chosen to teach the world coups d'etat, assassination, duplicity, torture, and state control. If the US would show the world a different face, one that accords with the precepts by which we have built our own society, we would begin to succeed where we now fail.  
- Jonathan Kwitny

IV. The shadow-puppet play exists or has existed in an extensive by fairly narrow strip of territory stretching from China in the East to Morocco and Western Europe in the West.  
- Amin Sweeney

V. 1945. A year to remember. Sure, there were some slightly interesting occurrences during the year, like FDR's death, and the end of World War II. However, these events pale into insignificance when compared with the one truly great news story of that year: the birth of Steve Martin. Stephen Martin was born unto Glenn and Mary Lee Martin in August 1945, in Waco, Texas. ('Waco', incidentally, is pronounced 'Way-co', not 'Wacko'. Since the name stands for the birthplace of Steve Martin, the city fathers may consider changing the pronunciation.)  
- Grey Lenburg, Randy Skretvedt, and Jeff Lenberg

VI. Even before his death, George mentioned that several times he had heard mysterious music coming from the organ in the projection room. As a test he locked the door and disconnected the electric apparatus, which worked the organ. Still the music continued. But as soon as he entered the room, it ceased.

VII. If you love things Italian, wait until you have tasted them in Italy. There is so much more to love and life. The fashion, the food, the wines, the music, the scenery, the architecture, the works of art ... it is more than a holiday, it is a celebration of life itself. But do not just come to Italy. Come to Alitalia's Italy. We can show you Romeo and Juliet's balcony in Verona; let you sigh on the Bridge of Sighs in Venice; gaze in awe at Michelangelo's 'David' in Florence; sit where Roman Emperors sat in ancient Rome; point you in the direction of the most elegant boutiques.

- Italiatour!Inc

VIII. Mother Cat is taking Huckle and Lowly to the city. What do you think they are going to do there? They have to take the train. Mother Cat sits in the passenger coach. Huckle and Lowly sit with the engineer in the locomotive. TO-O-O-O-T! Lowly pulls the whistle.

- Richard Scarry

IX. It is no secret that organised crime in America takes in over \$40 billion a year. This is quite a profitable sum, especially when one considers that the Mafia spends very little for office supplies. Reliable sources indicate that the Cosa Nostra laid out no more than six thousand last year for personalised stationery, and even less for staples. Furthermore, they have one secretary who does all the typing, and only three small rooms for headquarters, which they share with the Fred Persky Dance Studio.

- Woody Allen

- a) Which statement is written in a style suitable for children?
- b) Which statement is designed to make you do something?
- c) Which piece uses humour?
- d) Which one creates a mood of excitement?
- e) Which statement uses a precise tone?
- f) Which one gives instructions?
- g) Which statement is written from a critical point of view?



- h) Which statement is written from an admiring point of view?
- i) Which one has an unemotional tone?
- j) Which piece creates mystery?
- k) Which statement uses surprise and offers unexpected information?

(Adapted from Wiener & Bazerman, 1988, pp. 216-218)

### **Activity 2: Slanted writing**

#### Instructions

1. Read the following sentences.

Write *T* before those sentences that use only truthful methods. Write *S* before those sentences that use slanted writing techniques.

2. Briefly discuss which of the above types of propaganda is being used.

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ That sleazy crook has been ripping off this neighborhood for years.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ He was arrested three times on burglary charges, but he was never brought to trial because of lack of evidence.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ He hangs out with the worst crowd, so you can bet he is into something illegal.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ He is a good guy. He has never done anything bad when he has been with me.
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ He is the most popular guy on the block; everyone likes him and he is always helping out his friends. How can you say he has done anything bad?
- F. \_\_\_\_\_ I do not really know what this guy is like, but he has been very kind to me.

(Adapted from Wiener & Bazerman, 1988, pp. 224-225)

### **References**

- Glenn, C. Miller, R. K., Webb, S. S., Gray, L. & Hodges, J. C. (2004). Hodges' Harbrace Handbook. USA: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Wiener, H. S. & Bazerman, C. (1988). Reading skills handbook. (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

## Chapter 4

### Scanning and Skimming

#### Learning objectives

Following this meeting, you should be able to

1. apply reading strategies, such as scanning, skimming, and previewing, to get a good sense of the material that you plan to read
2. predict the content of your reading from the title and sub-headings, and your background knowledge.

#### Scanning

Scanning is used to discover required information to complete a given task such as making a decision about what to watch on TV, or which museum to visit while visiting a foreign city. Ask students NOT to read the excerpt before they begin the exercise, but rather, to focus on completing the task based on what the question requires. It is probably a good idea to do some awareness raising of the various types of reading skills that they use naturally in their own mother tongue (i.e. extensive, intensive, skimming, scanning) before beginning this exercise.

#### Skimming

Skimming is used to quickly gather the most important information, or 'gist', of a document. You run your eyes over the text, noting important information. Use skimming to quickly get up to speed on a current business situation. It is not essential to understand each word when skimming.

Examples of skimming:

- The newspaper (quickly to get the general news of the day)
- Magazines (quickly to discover which articles you would like to read in more detail)
- Business and travel brochures (quickly to get informed)

# Skim and Scan



Taken from <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/ec/reading/documents/ScanningMini-LessonwithSampleDocuments.pdf>

## Activity 1: What's On?

Instructions:

1. First read the following questions and then use the TV Schedule to find the answers.
2. Share your answer with your friends.
  1. Jack has a video - can he watch both documentaries without having to make a video?
  2. Is there a show about making good investments?
  3. You are thinking about traveling to the USA for a vacation. Which show should you watch?
  4. Your friend doesn't have a TV, but would like to watch a film starring Tom Cruise. Which film should you record on your video?
  5. Peter is interested in wild animals which show should he watch?

6. Which sport can you watch that takes place outside?
7. Which sport can you watch that takes place inside?
8. You like modern art. Which documentary should you watch?
9. How often can you watch the news?
10. Is there a horror film on this evening?

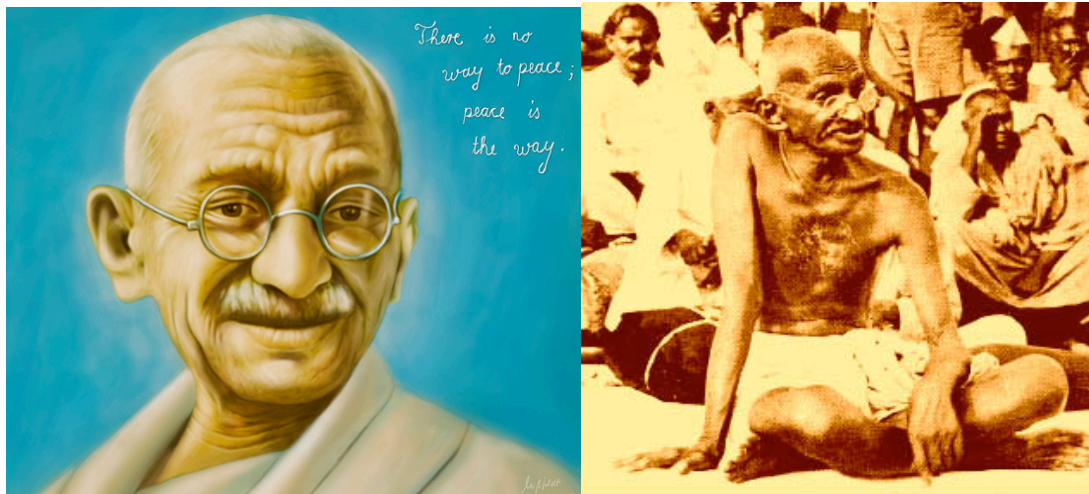
#### TV Schedule

CBC	FNB	ABN
6.00 p.m.: National News - join Jack Parsons for your daily news roundup.	6.00 p.m.: In-Depth News - In-depth coverage of the most important national and international news stories.	6.00 p.m.: Travel Abroad - This week we travel to sunny California!
6.30: The Tiddles- Peter joins Mary for a wild adventure in the park.	7.00: Nature Revealed- Interesting documentary taking a look at the microscopic universe in your average speck of dust.	6.30: The Flintstones- Fred and Barney are at it again.
7.00: Golf Review- Watch highlights from today's final round of the Grand Master's.	7.30: Ping - Pong Masters- Live coverage from Peking. 9.30: It's Your Money- That's right and this favorite game show could make or break you depending on how you place your bets.	7.00: Pretty Boy- Tom Cruise, the prettiest boy of them all, in an action packed thriller about Internet espionage.
8.30: Shock from the Past- This entertaining film by Arthur Schmidt takes a poke at the wild side of gambling.	10.30: Green Park- Stephen King's latest monster madness	9.00: Tracking the Beast- The little understood wildebeest filmed in its natural surroundings with commentary by Dick Signit.
10.30: Nightly News- A review of the day's most important events.	0.30: Late Night News- Get the news you need to get a hard start on the upcoming day.	10.00: Pump Those Weights- A guide to successfully using weights to develop your physique while getting fit.

11:00: MOMA: Art for Everyone- A fascinating documentary that helps you enjoy the difference between pointillism and video installations.		11.30: The Three Idiots- A fun farce based on those three tenors who don't know when to call it quits.
12:00: Hard Day's Night- Reflections after a long, hard day.		1.00: National Anthem- Close the day with this salute to our country.

Taken from <http://esl.about.com/od/readinglessonplan1/a/Reading-Comprehension-Skills-Scanning.htm>

### Activity 2: Scan the Gandhi



**Gandhi: A Life** by Yogesh Chadha is a book about the life of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the key figures in the history of 20<sup>th</sup>-century India. It start off with information about his life, such as where he came from and how he became a lawyer in the UK and South Africa before returning to India, were he was one of the fight for his country's independence from British. His policy of non-violent protest (including marches and hunger strikes) has been a model for political protest ever since.

Gandhi did not live to see independence in 1947. He was assassinated in 1946. *Gandhi: life* tells a story of great courage and integrity in a style that is easy to understand. Highly recommended,

a. What's the name of the book?		
b. Who's the author?		
c. Where and when does the story take place?		

(Taken from Just Reading and Writing, p. 90)

#### References

Harmer, Jeremy. Lethaby, Carol. (2005). *Just Reading and Writing*. London: Mashall Chavendish.

<http://esl.about.com/od/readinglessonplan1/a/Reading-Comprehension-Skills-Scanning.htm>

<http://www.palmbeachschools.org/ec/reading/documents/ScanningMini-LessonwithSampleDocuments.pdf>

## Chapter 5

### Review

#### Exercise 1: The Stradivarius

Instructions:

If you can infer the statement from the paragraph, answer *yes*. If you cannot infer the statement, answer *no*.

Although it has never been possible to produce a violin like the Stradivarius, it may be possible to produce its sound in the future. According to Janos Negyesy as the University of California, Sand Diego, someday there may be a way to produce the same quality of sound by computer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A stradivarius is a very good violin
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A Stradivarius was made by using a computer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Negyesy made Stradivarius violins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Many violinists would like to own a Stradivarius violin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The new computer reproduction will look like the original.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The same note played on different violins can sound different.

(Taken from Minnette Lenier, p 35)

#### Exercise 2: Inferences

Directions:

1. Read each passage and then respond to the questions. Each question will ask you to make a logical inference based on textual details.
2. Explain your answer by referencing the text.

Chris was upset that the teacher made the new kid sit with him. He liked to sit by himself, and he didn't want to make any friends. While the teacher was passing out papers, the new kid made the first move, "Hi, my name's Sean." Chris replied brusquely, "That's nice," without looking up from the notebook on which he was doodling. Sean paid Chris's lack of manners no mind. Instead, he stole a glance at the notebook on which Chris was drawing. Sean noticed that Chris was drawing a guitar with skulls on it. Sean asked politely, "What's your favorite band?" Chris ignored him. Sean continued, "My favorite band is The Lords

of Death.” Chris looked up at him for the first time. “Hello, Sean, my name is Chris. I believe that we are going to be great friends.” Sean smiled.

1. Why did Chris suddenly respond in a positive way to Sean’s inquiries?

How do you know this?

2. How did Sean know the correct approach to win Chris’s friendship?

How do you know this?

During the California Gold Rush of 1849, the world’s supply of gold more than doubled, and hundreds of thousands of people rushed to California to find their share. Boomtowns popped up to accommodate the visitors. A boomtown is a community that receives sudden and explosive growth and development. San Francisco had around two-hundred residents in 1846, and about 36,000 in 1852. The few merchants in these boomtowns sold goods for more than ten times what they cost back East. For example, a single pound of flour sold for as much as \$17. Not everyone who joined in the California Gold Rush got rich, but most of the boomtown merchants did.

3. Why were boomtown merchants able to sell their products for so much money?

How do you know this?

4. How were the miners able to pay such steep prices for the goods offered by Boomtown merchants?

How do you know this?

Today would not be a good day for Vernon, co-owner of Vernon and Vernon’s Fry Shack, for



the health inspector had just walked through the screen door that had no screen. The flies scattered. Vernon thought about the mousetraps in the back and wondered if they had been emptied. “Mr. Vernon?” inquired the health inspector. “We’ve received an anonymous tip about some unsanitary practices going on in the back.” The cashier stared fearfully at the inspector, while the fry cook quickly looked down. Mr. Vernon replied, “Well, our doors are always open to you, Inspector.” The inspector took the cap off of his pen.

5. Who reported the restaurant to the health inspector?

How do you know this?

6. What is a likely outcome of the inspection?

How do you know this?

Cassie rolled over in her bed as she felt the sunlight hit her face. The beams were warming the back of her neck when she slowly realized that it was a Thursday, and she felt a little too good for a Thursday. Struggling to open her eyes, she looked up at the clock. “9:48,” she shouted, “Holy cow!” Cassie jumped out of bed, threw on the first outfit that she grabbed, brushed her teeth in two swipes, threw her books into her bag and ran out the door.

7. What problem is Cassie having?

How do you know this?

8. Where is Cassie going?

How do you know this?

Anastasia sat by the fountain in the park with her head in her palms. She was weeping

Mournfully and wearing all black. In between gasps and sobs, Anastasia cried out a name: “Oh... John...”

And then her cell phone beeped. Her hand ran into her purse and her heart fluttered. The text message was from John. She opened up the message and read the few bare words, “*I need to get my jacket back from you.*” Anastasia threw her head into her arms and continued sobbing.

9. What relationship do John and Anastasia have?

Why do you feel this way?

10. Why is Anastasia sad?

How do you know this?

Taken from <http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-reading-worksheets/reading-comprehension-worksheets/inferences-worksheets/>

### Exercise 3: Fact and opinion

1. Oranges contain both calcium and vitamin C.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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2. The television show *The Simpsons* is just not as funny as it used to be.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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3. Diamonds are the hardest substance on Earth.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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4. McDonalds sells more hamburgers than any other restaurant chain in the world.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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5. Horse manure smells awful.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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6. The price of gas has grown to become too expensive.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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7. KFC has engineered “chickens” that do not have beaks and are double breasted.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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8. The more money someone has the more successful they are.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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9. Vegetarians are healthier than people who eat meat.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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10. Cell phones emit radiation that may or may not cause brain cancer.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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11. Students have a lot harder time in school than the teachers.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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12. Popular music today is not as good as it was in the past.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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13. It is illegal to yell out “Fire” in a crowded movie theater.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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14. People should not be allowed to talk on cell phones in a movie theater.

Fact or Opinion Explain:

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15. Drug dealers belong in prison.

Fact or Opinion Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

(Taken from <http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/free-reading-worksheets/fact-and-opinion-worksheets/>)

#### **Exercise 4: Timed Scanning Exercise**

Instructions:

1. This exercise practices scanning -- that means reading very fast to find specific pieces of information.
2. You have a very short time to scan the text and locate answers to the questions.

#### **Pulp Friction**

Every second, one hectare of the world's rainforest is destroyed. That's equivalent to two football fields. An area the size of New York City is lost every day. In a year, that adds up to 31 million hectares -- more than the land area of Poland. This alarming rate of destruction has serious consequences for the environment; scientists estimate, for example, that 137 species of plant, insect or animal become extinct every day due to logging. In British Columbia, where, since 1990, thirteen rainforest valleys have been clearcut, 142 species of salmon have already become extinct, and the habitats of grizzly bears, wolves and many other creatures are threatened. Logging, however, provides jobs, profits, taxes for the government and cheap products of all kinds for consumers, so the government is reluctant to restrict or control it.

Much of Canada's forestry production goes towards making pulp and paper. According to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Canada supplies 34% of the world's wood pulp and 49% of its newsprint paper. If these paper products could be produced in some other way, Canadian forests could be preserved. Recently, a possible alternative way of producing paper has been suggested by agriculturalists and environmentalists: a plant called hemp.

Hemp has been cultivated by many cultures for thousands of years. It produces fibre which can be made into paper, fuel, oils, textiles, food, and rope. For centuries, it was essential to the economies of many countries because it was used to make the ropes and cables used on sailing ships; colonial expansion and the establishment of a world-wide trading network would not have been feasible without hemp. Nowadays, ships' cables are usually made from wire or synthetic fibres, but scientists are now suggesting that the cultivation of hemp should be revived for the production of paper and pulp. According to its proponents, four times as much paper can be produced from land using hemp rather than trees, and many environmentalists believe that the large-scale cultivation of hemp could reduce the pressure on Canada's forests.

However, there is a problem: hemp is illegal in many countries of the world. This plant, so useful for fibre, rope, oil, fuel and textiles, is a species of cannabis, related to the plant from which marijuana is produced. In the late 1930s, a movement to ban the drug marijuana began to gather force, resulting in the eventual banning of the cultivation not only of the plant used to produce the drug, but also of the commercial fibre-producing hemp plant. Although both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp in large quantities on their own land, any American growing the plant today would soon find himself in prison -- despite the fact that marijuana cannot be produced from the hemp plant, since it contains almost no THC (the active ingredient in the drug).

In recent years, two major movements for legalization have been gathering strength. One group of activists believes that ALL cannabis should be legal -- both the hemp plant and the marijuana plant -- and that the use of the drug marijuana should not be an offense. They argue that marijuana is not dangerous or addictive, and that it is used by large numbers of people who are not criminals but productive members of society. They also point out that marijuana is less toxic than alcohol or tobacco. The other legalization movement is concerned only with the hemp plant used to produce fibre; this group wants to make it legal to cultivate the plant and sell the fibre for paper and pulp production. This second group has had a major triumph recently: in 1997, Canada legalized the farming of hemp for fibre. For the first time since 1938,

hundreds of farmers are planting this crop, and soon we can expect to see pulp and paper produced from this new source.

1. How many species of salmon have become extinct in BC?

- a. 27
- b. 31
- c. 137
- d. 142

2. How much of the world's newsprint paper is supplied by Canada?

- a. 31%
- b. 49%
- c. 34%
- d. 19%

3. What equipment on a ship was made from hemp?

- a. ropes
- b. Waterproof cloth
- c. Engine fuel
- d. life rafts

4. What drug can be obtained from a relative of hemp?

- a. cocaine
- b. heroin
- c. amphetamine
- d. marijuana

5. Where was hemp farming recently legalized?

- a. USA
- b. Canada
- c. Singapore
- d. Netherlands