Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

TEXT DETECTIVE TRAIL



Find details and prove your inferences

About 40 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

DETAILS AND INFERENCES



Book explorers prove every idea with **evidence**. What is stated word for word is **explicit**. What you figure out from clues is an **inference**.

- **Quote** exact words and give the paragraph number.
- Link clues to what you know to explain your thinking.

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S LUNCH

1. Every afternoon, the keeper climbed the narrow stairs to the lamp room with a small lunch basket. He always counted the steps under his breath: ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred. At the top, he ate by the large glass lamp while the sea moved below.
2. On Tuesday, strong wind shook the tower and rain tapped on the door. When the keeper opened his basket, his cheese sandwich was gone. Only **crumbs** and a torn piece of cloth were left. Wet paw prints led from the small open vent across the floor to the table.
3. The keeper looked closely at the prints and the narrow vent. He smiled and cut a second sandwich into small pieces. 'That hungry cat from the cliff path is back,' he said. 'Only a small animal could slip through that vent, and only a cat leaves prints like **these**.'

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TEXT DETECTIVE TRAIL

TASK A

/3

Complete the talk using **evidence** from the lighthouse passage.

Student A That sandwich did not just vanish! What did the keeper find in paragraph 2?

Student B .....

.....

Student A Right. So who do you think took the cheese sandwich?

Student B .....

.....

Student A But paragraph 3 never says 'I saw a cat.' How can you prove it?

Student B .....

.....

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RETELL THE MYSTERY

Retell a mystery in order using details.

MUD ON THE GYM FLOOR

1. On Friday morning, the class came in from recess and stopped in the hallway. Long streaks of wet mud led from the back door across the clean gym floor to the ball shelf. The basketballs were piled neatly, but one ball was **missing**.
2. Near the shelf, the teacher pointed to small muddy handprints on the wall and a wet jacket dropped on the bench. The jacket pocket was full of damp leaves, and a trail of drips led back outside to the wet **field**.
3. No one had seen anyone come inside. 'We left that ball on the field yesterday,' one student said. 'Someone must have run in to get it just now and hurried back out.' The teacher nodded and handed out paper towels to clean the **floor**.

KEY WORDS

explicit: said word for word in the text

inference: smart guess from clues plus what you know

evidence: words from the text that prove an idea

detail: small fact in the text

paragraph: group of sentences with a number

TASK B

Draw four pictures to retell the gym story with details.

1

Paragraph 1: mud trail from back door to ball shelf

2

Paragraph 2: muddy handprints and wet jacket on bench

3

Paragraph 3: inference that someone got the missing ball

4

Finally: class cleans the floor with paper towels

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ORDER AND EXPLAIN

Put events in order and explain why they happened.

THE OPEN LIBRARY WINDOW

1. On a windy March afternoon, the school librarian left the back window open a crack to let in fresh air. On the table below sat a stack of new art books and a cup of **pencils**. Sunlight warmed the sill while papers lay still in the quiet room.
2. Suddenly a strong gust blew through the gap. Papers fluttered across the room, the pencil cup tipped over, and the top art book slid off the table. Its pages bent in a small puddle that had dripped in from the **sill**.
3. After school, the librarian closed the window, dried the book with a towel, and moved the table away from the wall. She taped a small note to the glass: 'Open only one inch when the wind is **strong**.' The books stayed dry after that.

TASK C

/2

Order the library events using details from paragraphs 1-3.

1. Librarian leaves window open a crack
2. .....
3. Pencil cup tips and book falls
4. .....
5. Librarian dries book and moves table

TASK D

Explain why the art book got wet using deeper reasons.

The art book got wet in the library.

Why? The window was left open a crack

Why? .....

Why? .....

Why? .....

Why? .....

Why? .....

Why? .....

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KNOW THE TERMS

Learn the words that good readers use.

TASK E

/2

Label each picture with the correct reading **skill**. Use these words: explicit detail, inference, evidence.

explicit detail | inference





_____ says word for word

_____ smart guess from clues

TASK F

/3

Build three true sentences with the **table**, then write them below.

An explicit detail	quotes	exact words from the text
An inference	combines	clues with what I know
Evidence	proves	an idea with a quote and paragraph number
		your own idea

Write three sentences

An explicit detail quotes exact words from the text.

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SHOW YOUR PROOF

Ask questions and fix mistakes with proof.

THE BROKEN BIRD FEEDER

1. On Saturday morning, two friends checked the bird feeder behind the garage. The wooden feeder had fallen to the ground, seeds were scattered on the snow, and tiny hopping tracks circled the **post**. The morning air was cold and still.
2. One friend pointed to scratches on the wood and a small gray feather caught on a nail. 'The wind knocked it down last night,' she said. The other shook his head and pointed to the tracks. 'Wind does not leave footprints or **feathers**.'
3. They looked up and saw a fat squirrel sitting on the fence, munching seeds. 'That explains the scratches and the fallen feeder,' they agreed. They hung the feeder higher on a strong branch and brushed the snow off the **post**.

TASK G

Write a question for each answer using clues from the feeder passage.

The answer is: **Tiny hopping tracks in the snow**

What could the question be?

.....

.....

.....

The answer is: **A squirrel knocked it down**

What could the question be?

.....

.....

.....

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TEXT DETECTIVE TRAIL

TASK H

/2

Spot the mistake in each claim and fix it with evidence.



Student A

Paragraph 1 says the wind knocked down the bird feeder.

What mistake did Student A make? Write the correct fact.



Student B

An inference is just a guess and needs no proof.

What mistake did Student B make? Write the correct fact.

HOW DID I DO?

Circle a face for each line.

I can quote details to explain what the text says.	☹	😐	☺
I can make inferences from clues and prove them.	☹	😐	☺
I can name the paragraph where I found evidence.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Text Detective Trail

Task A

1. Student B: Only crumbs, a torn cloth, and wet paw prints.
2. Student B: The cat from the cliff path.
3. Student B: I infer it from the paw prints and the narrow vent.

Task B

Answers will vary.

Task C

1. Librarian leaves window open a crack
2. Wind gusts through the gap
3. Pencil cup tips and book falls
4. Book lands in puddle from sill
5. Librarian dries book and moves table

Task D

Answers will vary, e.g. The window was left open a crack; The table with books was right under the window

Task E

1. explicit detail
2. inference

Task F

Answers will vary, e.g. An explicit detail quotes exact words from the text. An inference combines clues with what I know. Evidence proves an idea with a quote and paragraph number.

Task G

Answers will vary, e.g. Tiny hopping tracks in the snow → What detail in paragraph 1 shows an animal visited the feeder? A squirrel knocked it down → What inference in paragraph 3 explains the fallen feeder?

Task H

1. Student A: Mistake: paragraph 1 only describes the fallen feeder, seeds and tracks. The squirrel inference comes in paragraph 3.
2. Student B: Mistake: an inference needs proof. You must quote details and give the paragraph number.

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