Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Prove It From the Text



Cite evidence for what is stated and what you infer

About 50 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Cite Text Evidence

To **cite** evidence means to show the exact words that prove your answer. Strong analysis uses proof for both kinds of answers.

- **Explicit** means the author states it word-for-word. Copy it in quotation marks and give the paragraph number.
- An **inference** means you figure it out from clues plus thinking. You still need evidence: copy the clues and explain your thinking.
- Always link proof to answer: state your idea, give the quote, then explain how it supports you.

The Tower That Stayed Up

1. On Tuesday morning at 8:05, a sixth-grade class started a science challenge to build the tallest tower that could hold a book for ten seconds. The teacher put boxes of materials at the front of the room: dry spaghetti sticks, tape, string, and paper cups. A student in the back row stared at the boxes and did not move to get supplies.
2. By 8:30, most groups had finished flat bases and were building upward. The student in the back was still sitting alone, shoulders low, tapping a pencil on the desk. When a partner asked to join, the student said, "I tried this last year and mine fell in three seconds. I am just bad at this."
3. After lunch, the teacher showed a short video about strong shapes and gave each group ten more minutes to rebuild. The student in the back watched closely, paused the video, and sketched a wide triangle base in a notebook. Then the student asked for extra tape, joined two other students, and tested a short tower three times, fixing the legs each time.
4. At 2:15, the final test began. The rebuilt tower stood 28 inches tall and held the book for the full ten seconds while the whole class counted aloud. The student smiled, held the notebook up, and said, "See? Changing the base made it strong. Can we try it even taller tomorrow?" The teacher wrote on the board: Evidence: testing and fixing beats giving up.

Key words

explicit: stated exactly in the text

evidence: words from the text that prove an answer

quote: exact words copied in quotation marks

inference: a smart guess based on clues

analysis: explaining what details mean

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Find the Proof

Practice matching each answer to the best text proof.

↑↓ Task A

Example done for you

/5

Use paragraphs 1-4. Sort each detail by whether it is stated word-for-word or must be figured out from clues.

~~28 inches tall~~ | felt discouraged before lunch | three times | felt proud at the final test | became interested after the video | dry spaghetti sticks

Stated Explicitly	Figured Out by Inference
28 inches tall	

Did you know?

Did you know? Judges and scientists must also cite **evidence** for every claim, just like readers do.

Task B

Example done for you

/5

Color each box by group. Use proof from paragraphs 1-4 to decide if it is explicit or supports an inference.

● **Explicit Evidence**: colour it blue or draw ●

▲ **Inference from Evidence**: colour it orange or draw ▲

"dry spaghetti sticks," tape, string, and paper cups" in paragraph 1 lists the materials

"stood 28 inches tall" in paragraph 4 gives the tower height

"I tried this last year and mine fell in three seconds" in paragraph 2 gives exact words spoken

"shoulders low" and "I am just bad at this" in paragraph 2 suggest the student felt discouraged

"watched closely" and "sketched a wide triangle base" in paragraph 3 suggest the student got a new idea

"smiled" and "Can we try it even taller tomorrow?" in paragraph 4 suggest the student felt proud and confident

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Build Strong Answers

Follow the method and test evidence in pictures too.

Task C

/2

Put strong citing in order. This method works for any explicit question or inference.

1. Read the question and underline what it asks
2. .....
3. Decide: explicit answer or inference?
4. .....
5. Explain how the evidence supports your answer

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can find exact evidence for explicit details	☹	😐	☺
I can cite clues to support an inference	☹	😐	☺
I can explain how evidence supports my answer	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Prove It From the Text

Task A

Stated Explicitly: 28 inches tall, dry spaghetti sticks, three times

Figured Out by Inference: felt discouraged before lunch, became interested after the video, felt proud at the final test

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Task B

Explicit Evidence (blue ●): "dry spaghetti sticks, tape, string, and paper cups" in paragraph 1 lists the materials, "stood 28 inches tall" in paragraph 4 gives the tower height, "I tried this last year and mine fell in three seconds" in paragraph 2 gives exact words spoken

Inference from Evidence (orange ▲): "shoulders low" and "I am just bad at this" in paragraph 2 suggest the student felt discouraged, "watched closely" and "sketched a wide triangle base" in paragraph 3 suggest the student got a new idea, "smiled" and "Can we try it even taller tomorrow?" in paragraph 4 suggest the student felt proud and confident

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Task C

1. Read the question and underline what it asks
2. Find the useful part in paragraphs 1-4
3. Decide: explicit answer or inference?
4. Copy exact words in quotation marks + paragraph number
5. Explain how the evidence supports your answer

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