Inference Questions – Teacher Prompts

Remember: Inferential questions ask readers to read between the lines.

- Why...
- Why do you think...
- From the title/heading, can you infer what the text will be about..?
- How do you know that ...?
- What might happen if ...?
- I know this because...
- How does the reader know that...?
- Are there any clues on the page / within the text that help you in deciding...
- I think _ _ _ _ _ _ _ because I know that _ _ _ _ _ so_ _ _ _
- What are the possible reasons for this happening?
- What can you infer from the illustrations on this page?
- Why do they ..? How do you know?
- Do you think ..? Why do you think that?
- Why does the author use the word ...?
- What does the author mean when they say...
- What does the illustrator mean when they include...
- Why does the illustrator use...?
- What is the author implying?
- What is the illustrator trying to do?
- Why does the illustrator use...?
- What message is the author trying to give us?
- What message is the illustrator trying to share?
- Can you infer the meaning of ... ?
- What probably caused ... ?
- How might _ _ _ _ _ _feel?
- What is the problem?
- Why did the character... ?
- What can you conclude about... ?
- What is most likely true about...?
- Predict what would happen if...
- Predict what will happen when...
- What lesson does this text teach?
- How do you think the author feels about...?
- How do you think the character feels when...?
- What lesson did the character learn?
- From this story, you could probably guess that...
- What would happen in a sequel to this story?
- How did _ _ _ _ _ feel?
- Why did_ _ _ _ _act that way?
- What was the main idea..?

- How would you explain..?
- What do you think could have happened next..?
- Explain why the character acted in the way that they did......
- What do you think_____means?
- How would the story have changed if...?
- What were the motives behind..?
- How is_____similar to_____?
- What are the differences between _____and_____?
- Can you explain what must have happened when..?
- What was the turning point..?
- What were the motives behind..?
- What are some other possible outcomes..?
- What might have caused _____?
- Where did you find that clue?
- Does this text remind you of another text / anything else?
- What kind of people would read this text?
- What does the term '_____' mean?
- Why did the author choose to use the words *First, Then, Next, Last* at the beginning of the sentences?