

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTRODUCTION

You might have already read the following passage in which you practiced finding facts. Now let's read *Over the Fence* to try making inferences.

Making an inference is a thinking or reasoning skill. (See *Drawing Conclusions*, page 26.) The reader is often only given a limited amount of information. The reader makes inferences from the information given. Readers also use their own knowledge when making inferences.

Let's read this short passage from *The Big Race* by A. Horsfield.

Claude McGhee was in sixth grade. He was the biggest kid in school, and he hadn't got his nickname, Claws, for nothing. He was built like a bear, but he could also run.

The reader could make several inferences from this passage. What sort of a person is Claude McGhee? How did he really get his nickname? From the evidence, the reader could probably infer that Claws was a bully, or someone to be feared.

Sometimes writers will deliberately mislead the reader. They do not give all the information or they add information that gives the reader the wrong ideas or impressions. This happens in mystery stories and some scary books.

Read the story from *The Sylvia Mystery* by Penny Hall.

### OVER THE FENCE

Kat stood at her open bedroom window and scowled down at the pool in its carefully landscaped setting, two stories below. The water was the same brilliant, unlikely blue as the water in the toilet bowls—and just as irritating in its synthetic perfection. She drank a last swig of soda, burped loudly, and tossed the can into the pool.

No adult voice bellowed in disapproval. No child's voice giggled in appreciation.

The can bobbed on the gentle waves generated by the automatic pool cleaner, slid gradually into the water and finally sank.

It's not fair, Kat moaned inwardly. It's going to be another stinking hot day. For the first time in my life, I've got a pool in the backyard, and I'm not allowed to use it until they come home.

For five whole days, the yard, enclosed by high bushes, had been like a park for her private use.

Exploring the huge house with its electronic gadgets had been fun. Now her park was beginning to feel like a jail and there was only so much she could do, on her own, in a strange house.

She could see little slices of the neighboring houses, but trees blocked out most of her view.

1. The reader could infer that Kat was alone in the building. What information makes the reader think this? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What information has Penny Hall given to help the reader infer that Kat is not really a bad person? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Kat's new house is quite modern. This can be inferred from the fact that

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it is a huge house with many electronic gadgets.

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trees block most of the view.