

Help Your Child Master Drawing Conclusions from Stories

Does your child struggle to understand what a story is really about? You're not alone. Many elementary students can retell events but miss the deeper meaning—the "so what?" that makes reading meaningful. The good news? Drawing conclusions is a skill you can practice together at home, and it's easier than you think.



What Does "Drawing a Conclusion" Mean?

Think Like a Detective

Drawing a conclusion means using clues from the story plus what you already know to figure out something the author didn't say directly. It's like being a detective—you gather evidence and solve the mystery!

When your child draws conclusions, they're thinking critically and engaging deeply with what they read. This skill helps with comprehension, test-taking, and understanding the world around them.



The Simple 3-Step Process

01

Find the Clues

What details does the story give us? Look for descriptions, actions, and dialogue that hint at something bigger.

02

Add What You Know

What does your child already know from real life? Connect story clues to personal experiences or common knowledge.

03

Make Your Best Guess

Put the clues and knowledge together. What's the most logical conclusion? Remember: good conclusions are supported by evidence!

Now let's practice with two fun stories. Work through each one together, talking through why certain answers make sense—and why others don't!



Practice Story #1: Maya's Big Day

Maya woke up extra early and put on her favorite dress. She barely touched her breakfast. "You'll do great," her mom said, giving her a hug. Maya clutched her notecards as they drove to school. When they arrived, she saw a microphone on the stage in the cafeteria.

What can you conclude about Maya? Read all four options on the next slide and work through them together using process of elimination.

Practice Story #1: Which Conclusion Makes Sense?

1

Maya is going to a birthday party

Think: Would she bring notecards to a party? Would there be a microphone at a party? ❌ Not supported by the clues!

2

Maya is nervous about giving a speech

Think: She woke early, wore a favorite dress, had notecards, and there's a microphone. Her mom encouraged her. ✓ This fits all the clues!

3

Maya is sick and going to the doctor

Think: Why would she go to school with a microphone if she's sick? This doesn't match the setting. ❌ Doesn't make sense!

4

Maya forgot to do her homework

Think: Would her mom say "you'll do great" about missing homework? No microphone needed for that! ❌ Not logical!

Story #1: The Answer



Maya is nervous about giving a speech

Why this conclusion works:

- **Clue:** Notecards are used for speeches
- **Clue:** Microphone on stage suggests a presentation
- **Clue:** Not eating breakfast shows nervousness
- **What we know:** People dress nicely for important events
- **What we know:** Parents encourage kids before big moments

All the evidence points to one conclusion. Great detective work!



Practice Story #2: The Mysterious Box

Jake found a dusty box in the attic with his grandmother's name on it. Inside were old photographs, letters tied with ribbon, a dried flower, and a ticket stub from a concert in 1965. His grandmother smiled when she saw it. "I haven't seen this in fifty years," she said softly, touching the flower gently.

What can you conclude about the box? Turn to the next slide and use what you learned to eliminate wrong answers!

Practice Story #2: What's Your Conclusion?

1

The box contains grandmother's treasures from when she was young

Think: Photos, letters, flower, old ticket from 1965—she was emotional seeing it after 50 years. ✓ Everything supports this!

2

The box is full of Jake's old toys

Think: It has grandmother's name and items from 1965. Jake wasn't born then! ✗ Doesn't match the facts!

3

The box contains items grandmother wants to throw away

Think: She smiled and touched things gently—these are meaningful, not trash. ✗ Her reaction shows these matter!

4

The box is a present Jake bought for his grandmother

Think: Jake found it in the attic, and grandmother said she hasn't seen it in 50 years. ✗ Logic doesn't work!

Story #2: The Answer

The box contains grandmother's treasures from when she was young

Why this conclusion is correct:

- **Clue:** Her name was on the box
- **Clue:** Items from 1965 (she would have been young)
- **Clue:** Personal items like letters and dried flowers
- **Clue:** Emotional reaction after 50 years
- **What we know:** People keep meaningful mementos from their youth
- **What we know:** We handle treasured memories gently



Keep Practicing Together!



Make It a Habit

After any story, ask: "What can we figure out that wasn't directly said?"
Practice makes perfect!



Talk It Through

Let your child explain their thinking.
Even wrong answers show how they're processing—guide them gently.



Celebrate Progress

Every conclusion they draw builds confidence. You're helping them become stronger readers and thinkers!

Remember: drawing conclusions is a skill that improves with practice. These short, focused activities make a big difference. You're giving your child tools they'll use for life—and spending quality time together while doing it. You've got this!

