

Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Inferences

When you make an inference, you use clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

Directions: Answer the questions or follow the directions that appear in italics to fill in what's missing from the chart. We completed the first row for you.

Clues	Inference
<p>1. "When the train arrives in Meadows, it seems to Luke to be just like all the other forlorn places they've stopped along the way." (p. 24)</p> <p>"Luke looks back at the train, the rolling torture chamber that's been taking them across the country." (p. 24)</p>	<p><i>What do these lines reveal about how Luke feels about the trip with his father so far?</i></p> <p>You can infer from the descriptions "forlorn places" and "rolling torture chamber" that Luke is having a miserable time on the trip.</p>
<p>2. When Luke and his father walk into the museum, Luke says, "Maybe there's a cowboy hat you can buy." In response, his father gives him "a withering look." (p. 25)</p>	<p><i>"Withering" means harsh or severe. What can you infer Luke's father is feeling at this moment?</i></p>
<p>3. <i>Find two lines that support the inference on the right.</i></p>	<p>Luke feels uneasy around Mr. Klack.</p>

Clues	Inference
<p>4. After Luke and his father argue about the stolen jar of ashes, Luke says angrily, "It's not my fault you're blocked . . . Think up your own stories." Then Luke looks for another berth to sleep in away from his father. (p. 28)</p>	<p><i>Why is Luke so angry at his father for taking the jar of ashes?</i></p>
<p>5. <i>Find a moment in the story that supports the inference on the right.</i></p>	<p>Luke feels bad for the ghost boy.</p>
<p>6. "[Luke] steps forward and puts his hand on the ghost boy's shoulder. Cold numbs his fingers. He sees a mountain, feels its ice-cold breath. Workers with tools step toward a hole in the rock face, and a terrible sensation of dread wells from it." (p. 27)</p> <p>"There is a terrible sound, and the smoke and grit boil past . . . Without warning, a second explosion bowls them over, and a thunderclap comes from the rock above before it collapses." (p. 29)</p>	<p><i>What do these passages reveal about the ghost boy's experience of working on the railroad?</i></p>