Making Inferences: Clue Detectives

4th Grade · ELA

Level 2: On Grade

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read each short story. Answer the questions using clues from the text and what you know.

Rainy Morning

Rain dripped from Carmen's hood as she slid into her seat. She glanced at the clock, groaned, and quickly pulled out her math book. Her teacher pointed to the board, where the first problem was already solved.

1. What can you infer about Carmen?

2. Which clues helped you?

Grandpa's Kitchen

Grandpa tied on his apron and pulled the biggest pot from the shelf. He chopped onions, carrots, and celery, then set out twelve bowls. "Everyone will be here at six," he said, wiping his watery eyes.

3. What is Grandpa getting ready for?

4. Why do you think Grandpa's eyes were watery? What clue tells you?

The Purple Mitten

Kai found a small purple mitten on the playground bench. He looked around, then carried it to the lost-and-found box and dropped it in. Later, a little girl ran past the box, stopped, and squealed with joy.

5. Why did the girl squeal?

6. What kind of person is Kai? Give one clue.

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Answer Key

4th Grade · ELA

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1. Carmen arrived late to class.
2. She was still dripping from the rain (she just came in), she groaned at the clock, and the class had already solved the first problem.
3. He is making soup (or stew) for a big family dinner.
4. He had been chopping onions, which can make your eyes water.
5. The mitten was hers, and she was happy to find it.
6. Kai is honest and helpful — he took the mitten to the lost-and-found instead of keeping it.

Accept any answer that makes sense and is supported by a clue from the text.

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