Making Inferences: Clue Detectives

4th Grade · ELA

Level 3: Challenge

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the story. Answer the questions with evidence from the text.

The Basket on the Porch

Every morning that November, a basket appeared on Mrs. Hale's porch. One day it held warm muffins. Another day it held a jar of soup and a crayon drawing of a sunflower. Mrs. Hale lived alone, and since she had hurt her knee, she rarely left the house.

On Thursday, she decided to solve the mystery. She sat by the window with her tea before the sun came up. Just as the sky turned pink, she heard the squeak of the gate next door. Small footprints pressed into the frosty grass. Two figures in matching red hats hurried up the steps, set down the basket, and raced back toward the house next door, giggling.

Mrs. Hale smiled. She pulled out a sheet of paper and her best pen. That afternoon, a basket appeared on a different porch. Inside were two pairs of hand-knit red mittens and a note that said, "Thank you, my sunshine friends."

1. Who has been leaving the baskets? List two clues that helped you.

_____

_____

_____

2. Why do you think the baskets were left for Mrs. Hale?

_____

_____

_____

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3. What is the weather like in the story? How do you know?

4. Whose porch got the basket in the afternoon? How does Mrs. Hale feel about the children?

Inference Chart

Find two more clues in the story. Add what you know, then write an inference.

Clue from the text	+ What I know	= My inference

Safari Challenge

Write two sentences for a new ending: what do the children do when they find the mittens?

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Answer Key

4th Grade · ELA

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1. Two children from the house next door. Clues: the gate next door squeaked, small footprints, two figures in matching red hats, giggling, the crayon drawing.

2. She lives alone and hurt her knee, so she rarely leaves the house. The neighbors wanted to help and be kind to her.

3. Cold — it is November, the grass is frosty, and the children wear hats.

4. The children's porch next door. She feels thankful and fond of them (she calls them her "sunshine friends" and knit them mittens to match their red hats).

Chart Sample: Clue — "She pulled out her best pen." + I know people write notes to say thank you = Mrs. Hale wrote a thank-you note. Accept any supported inference.

SC Answers will vary.

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