

Lesson 11

CITE EVIDENCE FROM A STORY RL.6.1

INTRODUCTION

Real-World Connection

MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

Donny found an old glass bottle on the beach. It reminded him of his favorite adventure story. There was a piece of paper inside the bottle. Donny fished it out and read the message. A man named Kirk Jones wrote, “Hello from Portland! Please write me a letter. Include the date and place where you found the bottle.” Donny could not read Kirk’s address. The ink had been smeared long ago. Did Kirk live in Maine or Oregon? Donny searched the web and found a Kirk Jones in Maine. As instructed, Donny wrote Kirk a letter. In his letter Donny wanted to include a passage from his favorite adventure story. How can Donny include the passage and be sure that Kirk knows it is part of a story? We will practice the skills in **Guided Instruction** and **Independent Practice**. Then, we will revisit Donny and his letter at the end of the lesson.

What I Am Going to Learn

- How to make inferences from a text
- How to cite the text to prove my inferences

What I May Already Know RL.5.1, RL.4.1

- I know I can use my prior knowledge to support my understanding of what I am reading.
- I know how to explain a story by referring to details and examples from the text.

Vocabulary in Action

As you read, you will come across clues that the author leaves in the details of a text.

- An **inference** is a logical guess you make based on what the text tells you and your own background knowledge. Sometimes you will make inferences about a character, event, or idea in a story. To make an inference, use what the text tells you and what you already know about it.

WORDS TO KNOW

inference

evidence

quote

cite

quotation mark

TIPS AND TRICKS

Use a pencil or highlighter to select the words you want to quote.

This will help you quickly find the right part of the text and quote it accurately.



- **Evidence** is the details that come from the text.
- You can **quote** or **cite** evidence from the text. This means using the exact words from the text.
- When you use the author’s exact words to tell about a story, you must put **quotation marks** around the words.
- When you quote a story follow these steps.
 1. Copy the author’s words exactly.
 2. Use opening quotation marks at the beginning of the quote (“).
 3. Use closing quotation marks at the end of the quote (”).

GUIDED INSTRUCTION

Read this page from the story Donny wants to quote in his letter.

Shipwrecked!

After gathering what washed up on the beach, Selkirk made a shelter from old driftwood and moss. He fashioned a spear so he could fish for food, and he discovered fresh drinking water in a nearby stream. He had enough to eat and drink, but he kept trying to find a way to be saved.

He wandered from one end of the island to the other every day, looking for signs of inhabitants. One day, he stumbled upon a tiny village with huts, fishing nets, and small boats rocking with the tide.

“How can I get to the mainland?” he asked one of the men. The man shook his head, and Selkirk understood that he did not speak his language. So instead Selkirk drew simple pictures with a stick in the wet sand on the shore and tried to show what his ship looked like before and after the wreck.

The man nodded and pointed to a small boat bobbing in the choppy waters. “Can you help me get back to my friends and family?” Selkirk asked. The man led Selkirk to his boat, and he picked up the paddle and motioned for Selkirk to get in. “Am I going home, or is this a trick?” Selkirk thought.

HINT, HINT

Ask yourself, “What inference can I make about what happens to Selkirk?” Using details in the text and what you know, choose the answer choice that draws the most reasonable inference.

Part A

How will Selkirk be saved from the shipwreck?

- (A) He will be rescued by some sailors.
- (B) He will decide to stay on the island.
- (C) He will build a boat and sail home.
- (D) He will get help from an island native.

Part B

Underline **two** sentences in the story that **best** support the answer to Part A.



How Am I Doing?

What questions do you have?

SAMPLE

Think of a time when you quoted a book that you read. What did you quote?

Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.



READING NOTES

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read the selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.

From *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle | Genre: Fiction

Mr. Sherlock Holmes is seated at the breakfast table. His assistant, Dr. Watson, picks up a walking stick that a visitor the night before has left behind. The stick is a thick piece of wood with a round knob at the top. It has a broad silver band that is engraved with the words "To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S, from his friends of the C.C.H.," and the date "1884."

- 1 "Well, Watson, what do you make of it?"
- 2 Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.¹
- 3 "How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head."
- 4 "I have, at least, a well-polished, silver-plated coffee-pot in front of me," said he. "But, tell me, Watson, what do you make of our visitor's stick? Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss him and have no notion of his errand, this accidental souvenir becomes of importance. Let me hear you reconstruct² the man by an examination of it."
- 5 "I think," said I, following as far as I could the methods of my companion, "that Dr. Mortimer is a successful, elderly medical man, well-esteemed since those who know him give him this mark of their appreciation."
- 6 "Good!" said Holmes. "Excellent!"
- 7 "I think also that the probability is in favor of his being a country practitioner who does a great deal of his visiting on foot."
- 8 "Why so?"
- 9 "Because this stick, though originally a very handsome one, has been so knocked about that I can hardly imagine a town practitioner carrying it. The thick-iron ferrule³ is worn down, so it is evidence that he has done a great amount of walking with it."
- 10 "Perfectly sound!"⁴ said Holmes.

¹ what Watson was doing

² describe

³ a metal ring or cap on the bottom of a walking stick that protects it from splitting

⁴ reasonable, logical, acceptable

11 “And then again, there is the ‘friends of the C.C.H.’ I should guess that to be the Something Hunt, the local hunt to whose members he has possibly given some surgical assistance, and which has made him a small presentation in return.”

12 “Really, Watson, you excel⁵ yourself,” said Holmes, pushing back his chair. “I am bound to say that in all the accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements you have habitually underrated your own abilities. It may be that you are not yourself luminous,⁶ but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating⁷ it. I confess, my dear fellow, that I am very much in your debt.”

13 He had never said as much before, and I must admit that his words gave me keen pleasure, for I had often been piqued⁸ by his indifference to my admiration and to the attempts which I had made to give publicity to his methods. I was proud, too, to think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a way which earned his approval. He now took the stick from my hands and examined it for a few minutes with his naked eyes. Then with an expression of interest he carried the cane to the window and looked over it again with a convex lens.

14 “Interesting, though elementary,” said he as he returned to his favorite corner of the settee.⁹ “There are certainly one or two indications¹⁰ upon the stick. It gives us the basis for several deductions.”

15 “Has anything escaped me?” I asked with some self-importance. “I trust that there is nothing of consequence¹¹ which I have overlooked?”

16 “I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were erroneous.¹² When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank,¹³ that in noting your fallacies¹⁴ I was occasionally guided towards the truth. Not that you are entirely wrong in this instance. The man is certainly a country practitioner. And he walks a good deal.”

17 “Then I was right.”

18 “To that extent.”

19 “But that was all.”

20 “No, no, my dear Watson, not all—by no means all. I would suggest, for example, that a presentation to a doctor is more likely to come from a hospital than from a hunt, and that when the initials ‘C.C.’ are placed before that hospital the words ‘Charing Cross’ very naturally suggest themselves.”



TIPS AND TRICKS

Combine what you know with what the text says to make an inference.

⁵ to do well

⁶ shedding light. Here, Sherlock is describing intelligence.

⁷ inspiring, encouraging

⁸ interested

⁹ a type of sofa

¹⁰ clues

¹¹ importance

¹² incorrect

¹³ honest

¹⁴ errors

READING NOTES

- 21 “You may be right.”
- 22 “The probability lies in that direction. If we take this as a working hypothesis we have a fresh basis from which to start our construction of this unknown visitor.”
- 23 “Well, then, supposing that ‘C.C.H.’ does stand for ‘Charing Cross Hospital,’ what further inferences may we draw?”
- 24 “Do none suggest themselves? You know my methods. Apply them!”
- 25 “I can only think of the obvious conclusion that the man has practiced in town before going to the country.”
- 26 “I think that we might venture a little farther than this. Look at it in this light. On what occasion would it be most probable that such a presentation would be made? When would his friends unite to give him a pledge of their good will? Obviously at the moment when Dr. Mortimer withdrew from the service of the hospital in order to start in practice for himself. We know there has been a presentation. We believe there has been a change from a town hospital to a country practice. Is it, then, stretching our inference too far to say that the presentation was on the occasion of the change?”
- 27 “It certainly seems probable.”
- 28 “Now, you will observe that he could not have been on the staff of the hospital, since only a man well-established in a London practice could hold such a position, and such a one would not drift into the country. What was he, then? If he was in the hospital and yet not on the staff he could only have been a house-surgeon or a house-physician—little more than a senior student. And he left five years ago—the date is on the stick. So your grave, middle-aged family practitioner vanishes into thin air, my dear Watson, and there emerges a young fellow under thirty, amiable, unambitious, absent-minded, and the possessor of a favorite dog, which I should describe roughly as being larger than a terrier and smaller than a mastiff.”

I. According to paragraph 4, why do Holmes and Watson examine the walking stick closely?

- (A) They wonder how the stick was made.
- (B) They are curious about who left the stick.
- (C) They want to return the stick to its owner.
- (D) They plan to keep the stick as a souvenir.

2. What information from the story **best** supports each inference in the following chart? Use three of the quotations below to fill out the chart.

“I believe you have eyes in the back of your head.” (paragraph 3)

“Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss him and have no notion of his errand, this accidental souvenir becomes of importance.” (paragraph 4)

“I trust that there is nothing of consequence which I have overlooked?” (paragraph 15)

“I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were erroneous.” (paragraph 16)

INFERENCE	EVIDENCE
Sherlock Holmes is confident.	
Dr. Watson is not confident.	
Dr. Mortimer is forgetful.	

3. Based on evidence from the text, how would you describe Dr. Watson's view of the mysterious visitor who left the walking stick? Be sure to site evidence from the text to support your answer.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Questions that have a Part A and a Part B are often textual evidence questions. The first part asks you to make an inference. The second part asks for textual evidence to support the answer in Part A.

4. Part A

Based on details in the story, how would you describe the relationship between Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes?

- (A) Dr. Watson dislikes Sherlock Holmes.
- (B) Dr. Watson admires Sherlock Holmes.
- (C) Dr. Watson is afraid of Sherlock Holmes.
- (D) Dr. Watson is annoyed by Sherlock Holmes.

Part B

Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) “Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.” (paragraph 2)
- (B) “How did you know what I was doing?” (paragraph 3)
- (C) “I was proud, too, to think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a way which earned his approval.” (paragraph 13)
- (D) “I can only think of the obvious conclusion that the man has practiced in town before going to the country.” (paragraph 25)

5. Part A

How does Sherlock Holmes feel about Dr. Watson’s efforts to solve the mystery of Dr. Mortimer’s identity?

- (A) He is angry.
- (B) He is grateful.
- (C) He is confused.
- (D) He is disappointed.

Part B

Which sentence from the text **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) “Perfectly sound!” said Holmes.” (paragraph 10)
- (B) “Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it.” (paragraph 12)
- (C) “I confess, my dear fellow, that I am very much in your debt.” (paragraph 12)
- (D) “I think that we might venture a little farther than this.” (paragraph 26)

6. Which **two** sentences from the passage **best** show that Sherlock Holmes is a master detective who reaches a logical conclusion based on observation?

- (A) “Well, Watson, what do you make of it?” (paragraph 1)
- (B) “I am bound to say that in all the accounts which you have been so good as to give of my own small achievements you have habitually underrated your own abilities.” (paragraph 12)
- (C) “He now took the stick from my hands and examined it for a few minutes with his naked eyes.” (paragraph 13)
- (D) “‘Interesting, though elementary,’ said he as he returned to his favorite corner of the settee.” (paragraph 14)
- (E) “There are certainly one or two indications upon the stick.” (paragraph 14)
- (F) “We know there has been a presentation.” (paragraph 26)

7. Which quote from the passage **best** illustrates the method Sherlock Holmes uses to figure out Dr. Mortimer’s identity?

- (A) “I have, at least, a well-polished, silver-plated coffee-pot in front of me,’ said he.” (paragraph 4)
- (B) “It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but you are a conductor of light.” (paragraph 12)
- (C) “When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank, that in noting your fallacies I was occasionally guided towards the truth.” (paragraph 16)
- (D) “And if we take this as a working hypothesis we have a fresh basis from which to start our construction of this unknown visitor.” (paragraph 22)

8. In paragraph 25, Sherlock Holmes urges Dr. Watson to apply his methods. How would you describe the methods Holmes uses to solve a mystery? Cite evidence in the text to support your answer.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Short answer questions always ask for textual evidence. Include details from the text or a quote to support your answer.

EXIT TICKET

RL.6.1

Now that you have mastered citing evidence from a story, let's revisit the **Real-World Connection**. Read this letter that Donny wrote to Kirk Jones.

Dear Mr. Jones,

My name is Donald Forester. While I was fishing on July 6, I found your bottle on the beach at Blue Rock Cove near an old fishing boat. I am writing this letter, as you asked, to tell you where and when I found the bottle.

Finding your message reminded me of my favorite short story about a shipwreck that happened long ago. In the story, the author tells how a man tries to get help from the British Navy by writing a message. He put it in a bottle and tossed it in the ocean. "Then Selkirk wrote a message for help with his last drops of ink. His hand shook, and he weakly wiped away tears. After he described his location, he added that he loved his country and his family." I know you were probably just on vacation and weren't stuck on a desert island, but it was still exciting to find your message!

Regards,
Donny

What can you infer about how the character, Selkirk, is feeling in the story based on the sentences Donny quoted?

