

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Definition of **drawing** a conclusion

To draw a conclusion is to take all the **evidence** from a text or situation, combine that with your **background knowledge** and then make an **overall statement** or **judgment** about a text, person, or situation



Therefore, to draw a conclusion, you must do two things:

1. Use what you already know
and
2. Use what you've learned from the story



A **conclusion** is a decision you make after thinking about all the information you have. In a story, the writer may not state all of his/her ideas. So, when you read, you often must hunt for clues so you may understand the whole story. When you put all of the writer's clues together, you may **draw a conclusion** about the information.



Read this each story below, then answer the question.



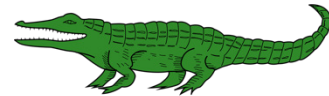
Don't touch that colorful balloon floating in the sea. It's probably a jellyfish. It could sting you. Hundreds of tentacles, or long arms, hang below the "balloon." The jellyfish uses these arms to trap small sea animals swimming by. Then it stings them with a strong poison from its arms. After that, it takes the animal to its mouth. The mouth is at the center of its body.

What conclusion can you draw from this story? _____

Crocodiles sometimes eat other crocodiles – even their own young. They attack and eat large land animals, such as water buffalo, that come to the swamp to drink water. Crocodiles hold their victims underwater until they drown.

From this story you can tell that

- Crocodiles attack only when they are scared
- Crocodiles are very particular about what they eat
- Crocodiles have very strong jaws
- People shouldn't be afraid of crocodiles



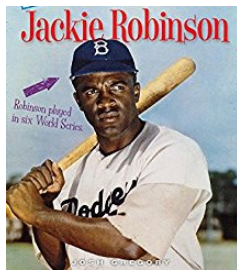
Sometimes a question asks about something you *cannot* tell from a story. Read the example.

The first matchbook was made in 1892. But matchbooks were unsafe until about 1914. Today many people collect matchbooks as a hobby. Collectors enjoy sorting their matchbooks according to the places they come from, such as hotels, restaurants, and airlines.

From the story you cannot tell

- When matchbooks were invented
- What the first matchbook cover was like
- How collectors sort matchbooks
- When matchbooks became safe to use





Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play major league baseball. He joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Another African American joined the Dodgers team later that year. His name was Dan Bankhead. He pitched in four games. He also hit a home run. The next year Bankhead returned to the minor leagues. Robinson was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Still, Bankhead should not be forgotten. It took courage for him to play with the Dodgers in 1947.

1. Did any African Americans play in the major leagues in 1946? _____ How do you know?

2. In Jackie Robinson's first game with the Dodgers, was he the only African American in the major leagues? _____
How do you know? _____
3. Was Dan Bankhead a star with the Dodgers? _____ How do you know?

4. Was Jackie Robinson a baseball star? _____ How do you know?

Many children are familiar with Mother Goose rhymes. Historians are not sure whether or not Mother Goose was a real person. Some say that her real name was Elizabeth Vergoose. They believe Vergoose is buried in Boston, Massachusetts. Historians think that her son published a book of her songs and rhymes. But such a book has never been found.

From this story you can tell:

- a. Elizabeth Vergoose wrote a book.
- b. The truth about Mother Goose remains a mystery.
- c. There was never a real person called Mother Goose.
- d. No one tells Mother Goose tales anymore.



In the English alphabet, *G* is the seventh letter. It was the third letter in the alphabet of the ancient Greeks. In addition to its main use in forming words, *G* is sometimes used to stand for other words and things. If you are measuring weight, small *g* stands for gram. In music, *G* is the name of the note that follows *F*.

From this story you cannot tell:

- How to pronounce *G* in English.
- Which things *G* stands for.
- Which place *G* has in the alphabet.
- What *G* is mainly used for.



Columns and columns of rock stand along the coast of Ireland. They make up a natural wonder called the Giant's Causeway. An old story says that this bridge was built by a character named Finn MacCool. He was building a bridge so that giants could walk from Ireland to Scotland.

From this story you can tell that:

- The causeway must be small.
- The causeway must be new.
- MacCool did not really build the causeway.
- Giants still walk across the causeway.



The United States Constitution gives people freedom of speech. But that does not mean that people can say whatever they want. What if someone was in a store and wanted to cause trouble? The person could shout "Fire!" even if there was not a fire. Everyone would run out of the store at once, and people could get hurt. In this case the guilty person would not be protected under the freedom of speech laws.

You can conclude from the freedom of speech laws:

- Are unfair to people.
- Cause trouble in stores.
- May not protect people who lie.
- Let people say whatever they want.



The porcupine uses the quills on its tail to defend itself. When an animal comes too close, the porcupine slaps its tail at the enemy. The sharp quills come off easily. They stick into the other creature's skin. Each quill has a hook at the end. This makes the quills very painful to remove.

If the quills did not have hooks, they would:

- Not stay on the porcupine.
- Come out more easily.
- Hurt much more.
- Shoot through the air.

