

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Inferences

**Directions:** In the story "There Were Giants," the author does not always tell you how characters feel or why they act the way they do. Instead, you must use text clues to make inferences. Read each set of lines from the story. Think about the questions in small type on the sides. Then make an inference to answer each question in bold.

1. Think about these two paragraphs from page 12:

What does this tell you about what Marie is expecting to find on this morning?

Every morning, I find a roaring fire in the fireplace, Gramps sitting at the kitchen table with a steaming cup of coffee, an open book in front of him, and sizzling bacon on the woodstove.

But not this morning. No Gramps at the kitchen table. No fire burning. No smell of coffee and bacon.

Does this surprise Marie? Do you think it is a good surprise or a bad surprise?

**What do you think Marie is thinking and feeling when she finds the great room cold and empty?**

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2. Now look at these lines from page 13:

Is it easy or difficult for Marie to get Gramps into the cabin? What clues does the author give?

I roll Gramps onto my blanket and start to pull him across the powdery snow toward the cabin. I have to get him warm, thaw him out, see if he is alive. The blanket sled works well until I reach the steps leading to the porch. There are only three of them, but I might as well be climbing a mountain. I hook him under the arms, cradle his head in my lap, and pull him up the steps an inch at a time.

What does Marie do when she runs into problems?

Gasping with frosty breath, I finally reach the porch and drag him inside.

**What does this section tell you about Marie?**

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3. Now think about these lines later on page 13:

When Marie speaks to Gramps, does she sound positive or negative?

I hold his hand. I talk to him.  
"You had an accident. I think you'll be OK."  
The truth is I don't think he'll be OK. I think he's going to die unless I get help.  
"I'm going to the Bensons' to use their phone. I'll be right back."  
I will not be right back. If Gramps can hear me, he knows it too.

How are Marie's thoughts different from what she says out loud?

Why do you think Marie tells Gramps the opposite of what she really thinks?

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4. Now think about the end of the story:

How does Gramps act before Marie begins telling him the legend of the lakes? How does he act afterward?

"Gramps," I say. He looks at me. But he doesn't say anything.  
I grip his hand harder.  
"Gramps," I say again, fighting tears. I swallow hard, wondering what to say.  
"Did I ever tell you how these lakes came to be?"  
Gramps's eyes clear a little bit. He gives my hand a squeeze.  
He smiles.  
I take a breath and start talking.

How does Gramps's silence make Marie feel?

How do you think telling the legend helps both Gramps and Marie?

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