



Learning Project 3 Reading Stories

Inquiry Activity 3-2: Drawing Conclusions

GED questions are designed to elicit different kinds of responses. This question asks the reader to draw conclusions from the passage read. When reading only a passage from a larger story, drawing conclusions can be difficult, as the question may unwittingly draw on other information from the rest of the story not completely clear in the passage. The answer to the question will not be stated directly in the passage.

(Note: Italicized portions should be directed to students.)

1. Identifying the Problem (Test Item # 12 PA)

Scan the test question to find out what you are being asked to do.

Question refers to the excerpt from a story in Inquiry Activity 3-1.

12. In an earlier part of this story, the reader learns that Jim moved away and has become a lawyer. Based on this information and the passage, what does Jim understand about his relationship with Antonia?

- (1) He will have to stay with Antonia forever.**
- (2) He can never come back because she is married and does not wish to see him again.**
- (3) He should never have come because they now have nothing in common.**
- (4) He and Antonia will always treasure their wonderful shared memories of childhood.**
- (5) His early years are of no importance to him now.**

2. Becoming Familiar with the Problem

Pre-reading strategies: Becoming familiar with the passage. Four pre-reading strategies are introduced and used consistently to help the learner develop the pre-reading skills for use with any reading they might do. The pre-reading strategies are:

- **Preview the Passage**
- **Activate Prior Knowledge**
- **Consider/Build Interest**
- **Set a Purpose**

Resist over-explaining the strategies. Encourage learners to answer the questions for each passage and allow them to come to their own insights about pre-reading.

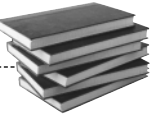
Remember, in this step, we are focusing on becoming familiar with the question through pre-reading strategies, not answering it from the passage.

Preview the Question: *What do you see?*

The question is asking for a conclusion from the reader.

How would you go about clarifying anything you might not understand in the question?

Activate/Build from Prior Knowledge: *Have you ever visited a childhood friend you haven't seen for a long time? Do you have any ideas about how Jim and Antonia might feel? If so, use these ideas to help you answer the question.*



Consider/Build Interest: *When you read a story or watch a movie with a situation like this one, do you ask yourself questions about the relationships?*

Set a Purpose: *What does **drawing conclusions** mean to you? What does the question ask you to do?*

At some point in the discussion of **drawing conclusions**, students should understand that the answers are not directly stated in the passage.

3. Planning, Assigning, and Performing Tasks

Doing the Work: *As you read the questions and reread the passage, here are some strategies to consider:*

Clarify:

*Read the question and answer choices. Find and mark any words you might not know. See if the question or answer choices give you enough information to **clarify** the meaning of those words. If not, find the meaning by asking somebody or looking it up.*

Were there any places in the passage where you did not understand what was going on?

Analyze:

Remind yourself what the question is asking you to do.

Go back to the passage. Find words and phrases that describe how the two characters, Jim and Antonia, feel about each other.

The childhood friendship between Jim and Antonia is marked throughout the passage, from Antonia anticipating telling her little girl about their childhood adventures, to Jim's fond thinking about her hands and face, and fantasizing about the ghosts of their youth.

Look in the passage and mark where there is information related to the question.

Now read each answer and decide if the information in the answer is:

- *not in the passage,*
- *the opposite of the information in the passage, or*
- *not accurate.*

Determine which answer choice answers the question.

In the passage, Jim feels a pull from the strong memories he has of their childhood together and recognizes that he will measure other women against Antonia. However, mention of her little girl, and the stated uncertainty of his repeating the visit, indicate that their story is one of childhood friendship and adult memories. Even though they have little in common now, their childhood memories are still important to them. The correct answer is (4).

4. Sharing with Others

Telling other people what you know helps you to understand the material better. So take this opportunity not only to share the knowledge, but also to learn it more completely.

Small Groups: *Compare the answer you found with others in the group. Discuss the methods you used to find the answer, the support for your answer in the passage, and the reasons why each learner thinks his/her answer and the support are correct.*

*Agree on a correct answer and a reading strategy you would use to answer questions that ask you to **draw a conclusion**.*

Whole Class: *Report your group's answer to the question, and indicate the methods used to find the answer, the support for the answer chosen, and your group's strategy for answering questions that ask you to **draw conclusions** from the passage.*



Notice that this question is numbered 12, the last question on the practice test for this passage. Why do you think it was included early in this Learning Project?

Answering this question involves **drawing a conclusion** as well. Knowing something about the history of Jim and Antonia, as revealed in this question, will be helpful in answering all of the questions for this passage.

How does having the information that Jim moved away and became a lawyer help you know who Jim is, understand his relationship with Antonia, and recognize what the passage is about?

Take notes on any different approaches to answering questions that ask you to **draw conclusions**.

5. Reflecting, Extending, and Evaluating

Reflecting: Think about how well you understood the work you did.

Here are some questions to start you thinking about the experience you just had. Thinking about what you have experienced is part of the learning process. When the focus is only on the answer, you don't get much time to think about what you learned.

Look back at *Doing the Work*. If you were telling someone else how you **draw conclusions** as you read, what words would you use to describe what you do?

When reading the question and its multiple-choice answers, what made you decide on your answer choice?

When reading multiple-choice questions, how do you eliminate choices?

What parts of the passage did you have to look at to determine what Jim understands about his relationship with Antonia?

Extending: Extend what you learned to new situations.

In extending, you are being asked to transfer the information presented in the Practice Test question to other information or situations.

Write a short story from your own experience with a friend from your childhood. Now, write a multiple-choice question about your short story that **draws a conclusion**.

Pass your question around to classmates to answer and discuss.

Listen to another classmate tell a story about a childhood friend. Before he or she finishes the story, try to tell the conclusion. Have your friend tell you whether the **conclusion you have drawn** is accurate.

Evaluating: Assess what you learned and how you learned it.

In this last step, you get a chance to review the methods used to learn. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions; it is your chance to look more closely at your learning style and the opportunity to state how you benefited or didn't benefit from the content and/or the methods presented in this IA.

What did you learn from this activity?

How did the approaches in this activity work for you? Explain.

What parts of the activity worked best for you? Explain.

What parts did not work well for you? Explain.

What parts of this Inquiry Activity will you use when taking the GED test? Why?

How did reading this way make you feel?