**SUMMARY**

*The Giving Tree* is a story about a very special tree who loves a boy more than anything else in the world. When the boy is young, the tree gives the boy her branches to play on and her trunk to climb. The boy visits the tree every day. As the boy grows older, he no longer comes to play in the tree’s shade. Instead, he comes and asks the tree to give him things that he wants. He thinks that the things that he wants will make him happy. Because the tree loves the boy and wants him to be happy, the tree gives him what he wants. Soon, the boy grows old and learns a very important lesson.

**LINK TO WHAT YOU KNOW**

- Think of the people and things that you love. How do you feel when you are with the people and things that you love?
- What does the word selfish mean?
- Can you think of a time when you or someone you know was selfish?
- Think of a time when you shared something you had with someone you love.
- Can you think of a time when you didn’t want to share but did anyway because you loved the person you were sharing with?

Read *The Giving Tree* once from beginning to end.

**WHY DO READERS MAKE INFERENCES?**

When readers make inferences they use what they already know along with the information in the text to gain a deeper understanding of the story or information. When readers make inferences, they behave like reading detectives. Sometimes the author does not give you all of the information but instead gives you clues that require you to think and use your prior knowledge to understand better. For example, if an author writes; "Jason tripped and fell in front of his entire class. Jason's face turned bright red" you can infer that Jason is embarrassed. You read that Jason's face turned bright red and you know that when people make mistakes and their faces turn red, that usually means that they are embarrassed. Now it’s your turn to try making an inference. Have fun thinking through reading!
**READ**

Read the book again and stop on the following pages to practice making inferences.

**Page 28:** Make an inference about the way that the tree feels when the boy grows up. How do you think the tree feels? How do you know?

**Page 34:** Make an inference about the way the boy feels when the tree gives him her apples. How do you think the boy feels? How do you know?

**Page 38:** Make an inference about the way the tree feels after the boy takes her branches. How do you think the tree feels? How do you know?

**Page 46:** Make an inference about the way the boy feels after he cuts down the tree to use the trunk for a boat. How do you think the boy feels? How do you know? What do you think the tree is thinking? Why do you think so?

**Page 50:** Make an inference about the boy and the tree. How do you think the tree feels when the boy comes back and rests on her stump? What do you think the boy is thinking about while he rests? Why do think so?

**THINK**

Think about the places in the book where making an inference helped you to understand the book better. Did you infer to understand a character’s feelings and thoughts better?

**TALK**

Talk to the person who read this book with you. Explain what making an inference is and how readers use inferring to understand what they read. Talk about the types of inferences that you made.

**REFLECT**

Readers always reflect on what they read. They think about the following:

- What did the text say?
- What do you already know about what the text says?
- What can you infer?
- How did you make inferences to understand and enjoy *The Giving Tree*?

**WRITE**

Turn to the **Making Inferences** section of your notebook and write about the work you did while reading *The Giving Tree*.

**Tips for Making Inferences**

Try to think about how you would feel if you were one of the main characters in the book. When you make connections to the book you’re reading, you will be able to guess how characters feel and what they might be thinking based on how you would feel or what you would think if you were the main character. When you do this, you are making an inference.
**MAKING INFERENCEs**

Think about the book. What clues does the author give you in the text that help you to infer. Write down the clues that the author gives you under “What the Text Says.” Next, think about what you already know about the clue. Write down what you know under “What I Know.” Last, write what you can infer.

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<th>What the Text Says</th>
<th>What I Know</th>
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