

Skill focus: Making inferences

Opening night

Tim took another deep breath. Inside his chest, he could feel his heart pounding like a bass drum. Again, he took slow, deep breaths and picked up his script. Flicking through the pages, he read through his lines quietly to himself, mumbling under his breath. All his hard work over the last few months had been for tonight. Crossing his fingers tightly, he wished for good luck.

"Tim, are you ready? You're on in 2 minutes," said Mr. Smith.

"I think so, Sir," said Tim in a shaky voice.

"Don't worry, you'll be fine, Tim. Break a leg!"

Slowly, Tim stood up and made his way towards the heavy, red velvet curtain. He pulled it to the side and stepped through.

1. How do you think Tim is feeling at the beginning of the text?
2. Explain how you know how he is feeling.
3. What do you think Tim is waiting to do?
4. What clues told you what Tim might be doing?
5. Who do you think Mr. Smith is?
6. Do you think "Opening Night" is a good title? Why?
7. If you had to give this text a different title, what would you call it?

Skill focus: Making inferences

A Busy Morning

"Ouchhhh!" screamed Toby. I ran into the living room to see Toby lying on the hard, wooden floor, tears rolling down his chubby, little cheeks. Behind me, I heard my mum walk into the room.

"What have you been doing to Toby?!" she shouted, her face turning a deep red. "Go upstairs; I haven't got time for this today."

"But- "I started to explain.

"Upstairs. NOW," Mum ordered. "And finish your packing, we need to leave for the airport in 20 minutes."

I stomped up the stairs to my room. It wasn't fair! Angrily, I started throwing things into my suitcase: sunglasses, a swimming costume, shorts, flip-flops.

1. How is Mum feeling when she walks into the room? How can you tell?
2. What does Mum think has happened and why?
3. What do you think the relationship is between Toby and the narrator?
4. Why do you think Mum says "I haven't got time for this today"? What is she getting ready for?
5. Where do you think the family might be going?
6. Explain what clues there are to where the family are going.