

Critical Concepts 6.1A *Watsons Go To Birmingham* Lesson Plans

Objective: Students will make inferences by citing textual evidence and using prior knowledge using Educational Epiphany graphic organizer CC 6.1A.

I Do (Teacher Model – 15 mins)

Text: *The Watsons Go To Birmingham* (Chapter 2– Byron freezes his lips to the car mirror)

Steps:

1. Distribute CC 6.1A–2 graphic organizer.
2. Review the word bank: *Analysis, Cite, Explanation, Explicit, Inference, Quote.*
3. Read aloud the passage where Byron kisses his reflection and gets stuck.

Teacher Think Aloud:

"I'm going to think about what I know from life and connect it to something that happened in the text. Byron kisses his reflection in the car mirror and gets his lips stuck. That's my cited detail. From my own experience, I know people often act tough or silly to impress others—even if it gets them in trouble. So I can infer that Byron is trying to show off, but he ends up humiliated. This tells me something about how he acts around others, especially in front of Kenny."

Sample Student Chart:

Information cited from the text that supports an inference	Prior knowledge or experience	Inference
"Byron kisses his reflection and gets his lips stuck on the frozen car mirror."	People sometimes act cool or silly to show off, especially to younger siblings.	Byron wants to impress others but often makes poor decisions that backfire.

We Do (20 mins)

Text: Chapter 6 – Byron kills the bird with a cookie and buries it.

Steps:

1. Read aloud together.
2. Ask:
 - What detail can we cite?
 - What prior knowledge helps us understand Bud's action?
 - What can we infer?
3. Fill out CC 6.1A-2 as a class.

Sample Response:

Information cited from the text that supports an inference	Prior knowledge or experience	Inference
"Byron kills a bird with a cookie, then cries and buries it."	People often feel guilty after harming something, especially unintentionally.	Byron is more sensitive than he pretends to be—this could show he's starting to grow up.

You Do with Partner (30 mins)

Text: Chapter 5 – Byron plays with fire in the bathroom.

Steps:

1. Partners read the passage.
2. Each pair completes CC 6.1A-2:
 - A cited detail.
 - Prior knowledge.
 - Inference.

Possible Pair Response:

Information cited from the text that supports an inference	Prior knowledge or experience	Inference
"Byron sets toilet paper on fire and tries to flush it down the toilet."	Setting fires indoors is extremely dangerous and can show a lack of judgment.	Byron acts recklessly and doesn't fully understand the consequences of his actions yet.

You Do Independently (Homework)

Task: Choose a passage from *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963*, Chapters 1–8, where a character shows emotion or makes a decision. Complete the 6.1A-2 organizer:

- Cite the textual detail.
- Connect with prior knowledge.
- Make an inference about what this tells us about the character

Suggestions for Passages:

- Kenny watching Byron deal with the bird.
- Kenny's interactions with Rufus and Larry Dunn.
- Kenny hiding behind the couch after Byron gets in trouble.