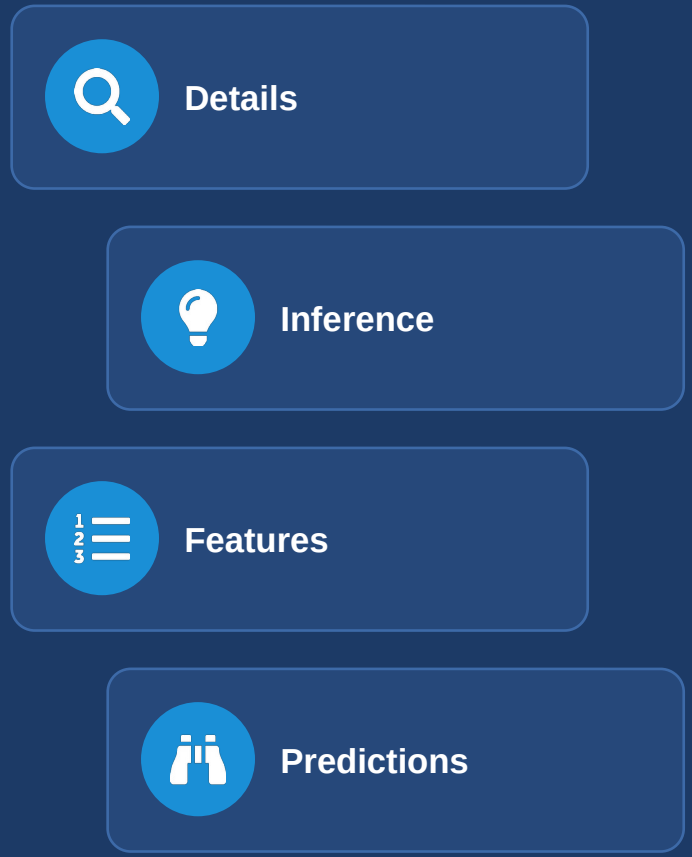
NBE3U Stories Now, Lesson 3

Opening Pages

Inferences from the first chapter



Today's goals

We are learning…

- To make and support inferences about a novel's opening.
- How text features help create meaning.

I can…

- Tell stated ideas from implied ideas.
- Make an inference and support it with a detail.
- Explain how a text feature (title, epigraph, chapter heading) shapes meaning.
- Make predictions to test.

Today's plan

Time	What we're doing	You will…
0–10 min	**Model**	Infer
10–25 min	**Stated vs implied**	Sort
25–50 min	**Your opening**	Infer with evidence
50–65 min	**Features**	Analyse
65–75 min	**Predict**	Write



Big idea

A novel's first chapter makes promises: about who matters, what is at stake and how the story will be told. Strong readers infer from small details, such as a name, an object, a silence, and then test those inferences as they read.

An original opening

Read: Original model text written for this lesson. What can you infer?

The map in my grandmother's cottage is older than my dad. Somebody drew the lake in brown ink and wrote a name across it that isn't the name on the sign at the marina. When I asked my cousin Dev which one was right, he laughed and went back to his phone. I didn't ask again.

Why it works

Two names for one lake.

A laugh instead of an answer.

A silence at the end.

Stated and implied



Stated

- The map is older than Dad.
- The names don't match.
- Dev laughs.



Implied

- The family may not know the land's history.
- Someone renamed the lake.
- Dev knows more, or thinks it's a silly question.

An inference goes beyond the words but is tied to them.

Words to use

infer	Reach a conclusion from evidence and reasoning. *“The silence suggests…”*
implied	Suggested but not said. *Dev's laugh implies…*
text feature	A title, epigraph, map, heading or glossary. *An epigraph frames the whole book.*

The inference ladder

In circles, on page 1:

1. Find five stated details in your first chapter.
2. Infer something from each.
3. Rate how sure you are, and why.
4. Choose the inference that matters most.

Questions that open a chapter

- Whose voice do we hear first?
- What is missing, broken or lost?
- What does the narrator want?
- What does the narrator not say?
- What object or place keeps appearing?

Read the features

On page 2:

1. Title: what does it promise?
2. Epigraph or dedication: who is honoured?
3. Headings, parts, maps, glossaries.
4. How does each shape your reading?

Testable predictions

Vague

- “Something bad will happen.”
- “It will be sad.”

Testable

- “The two names for the lake will matter.”
- “The narrator's silence will cost her.”

Write predictions

On page 2:

1. Three specific predictions.
2. One about a character.
3. One about a theme.
4. We'll test them in Lesson 6.

Testing inferences



An inference is a hypothesis. As you read on, look for evidence that confirms, complicates or overturns it.

Keep page 1: in Lesson 6 your circle tests these inferences and predictions.

Check yourself

Be honest. This helps you choose what to work on next.

Success criteria	Not yet	Almost	Got it
I can tell stated ideas from implied ideas.			
I can make an inference and support it with a detail.			
I can explain how a text feature (title, epigraph, chapter heading) shapes meaning.			
I can make predictions to test.			

Exit ticket

1. One stated detail from your opening.

2. What you infer from it.

3. Your most specific prediction.

Next class: Who Is Telling This?

Teacher reveal

Model opening: possible inferences

The map: Stated: the map is old and the lake has a different name. Implied: the narrator's family may not know the land's history.

The cousin: Stated: Dev laughs and doesn't answer. Implied: Dev knows something the narrator doesn't, or finds the question naive.

The ending line: Stated: “I didn't ask again.” Implied: silence will matter in this story.

Features: Titles, epigraphs, maps and dedications tell readers how to read: what to watch for and whose story it is.

Predictions: Good predictions are testable: “The lake's other name will matter,” not “Something will happen.”