Basketball & Reading Between the Lines:
Explicit vs. Inferred Meaning

Definitions:

- Explicit Meaning: Information that is clearly stated in the text. You can *point to it*.

- Inferred Meaning: Information that is *not directly stated*, but you can figure it out using clues in the text and your own knowledge.

Example 1 (Modeled)

"Coach benched me for the first quarter. I didn't argue. I knew I hadn't shown up to practice on time all week. I just grabbed a towel, sat down, and promised myself I'd earn my spot back."

Explicit Meaning (stated directly):

- The player was benched for the first quarter.

- The player didn't argue.

- The player had been late to practice all week.

- The player sat on the bench and made a promise to themselves.

Inferred Meaning (figured out from clues):

- The coach likely benched the player because of being late to practice.

- The player respects the coach's decision.

- The player is motivated to improve and values their role on the team.

Example 2

"With five seconds left on the clock, Jordan passed the ball instead of taking the shot. The crowd gasped, but then erupted when his teammate nailed the three-pointer to win the game."

What is stated explicitly?

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_____

What can you infer?

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Example 3

"After the loss, Marcus stayed behind on the court, shooting free throws in silence while the rest of the team hit the locker room."

What is stated explicitly?

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What can you infer?

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Example 4

"The ref gave DeShawn a warning for talking back. He clenched his fists and turned away, taking deep breaths before walking back into position."

What is stated explicitly?

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What can you infer?

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Wrap-Up Reflection

Why is it important to be able to infer meaning when reading a story or watching a game?

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