

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Inference: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Inference** is when you draw a conclusion based on the evidence that you have in a text. The author has not explicitly stated the information, but you make an “educated guess” based on the details in the text.

**Read “The Exposed Next” by Robert Frost and answer the questions that follow.**

You were forever finding some new play.  
So when I saw you down on hands and knees  
In the meadow, busy with the new-cut hay,  
Trying, I thought, to set it up on end,  
I went to show you how to make it stay,  
If that was your idea, against the breeze,  
And, if you asked me, even help pretend  
To make it root again and grow afresh.  
But 'twas no make-believe with you to-day,  
Nor was the grass itself your real concern,  
Though I found your hand full of wilted fern,  
Steel-bright June-grass, and blackening heads of clover.  
'Twas a nest full of young birds on the ground  
The cutter-bar had just gone champing over  
(Miraculously without tasting flesh)  
And left defenseless to the heat and light.  
You wanted to restore them to their right  
Of something interposed between their sight  
And too much world at once-could means be found.  
The way the nest-full every time we stirred  
Stood up to us as to a mother-bird  
Whose coming home has been too long deferred,  
Made me ask would the mother-bird return  
And care for them in such a change of scene  
And might our meddling make her more afraid.  
That was a thing we could not wait to learn.  
We saw the risk we took in doing good,  
But dared not spare to do the best we could  
Though harm should come of it; so built the screen  
You had begun, and gave them back their shade.  
All this to prove we cared. Why is there then  
No more to tell? We turned to other things.  
I haven't any memory-have you?-  
Of ever coming to the place again

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To see if the birds lived the first night through,  
And so at last to learn to use their wings.

Based on the information in the passage, how well does the speaker know the person he/she observed in the field? Give at least one detail from the passage to support your answer.

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What had happened to the nest that was found in the field? Give at least one detail from the passage to support your answer.

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What can you infer from the speaker's use of contrast and irony in these lines: "All this to prove we cared. Why is there then No more to tell? We turned to other things."

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Although there is no way to really know (because the speaker and friend did not go back to check), do you think the baby birds survived? Provide details from the text to support your inference.

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## Answers--Inference: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Inference** is when you draw a conclusion based on the evidence that you have in a text. The author has not explicitly stated the information, but you make an “educated guess” based on the details in the text.

**Read “The Exposed Nest” by Robert Frost and answer the questions that follow.**

You were forever finding some new play.  
So when I saw you down on hands and knees  
In the meadow, busy with the new-cut hay,  
Trying, I thought, to set it up on end,  
I went to show you how to make it stay,  
If that was your idea, against the breeze,  
And, if you asked me, even help pretend  
To make it root again and grow afresh.  
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All this to prove we cared. Why is there then  
No more to tell? We turned to other things.  
I haven't any memory-have you?-

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Of ever coming to the place again  
To see if the birds lived the first night through,  
And so at last to learn to use their wings.

*Answers will vary. Students should be able to support their answers with details when asked.*

Based on the information in the passage, how well does the speaker know the person he/she observed in the field? Give at least one detail from the passage to support your answer.

*He/she knows the person well. It says "you were forever finding some new play"—they had known each other a while. At the end, the speaker is talking to the person about the memory—"I haven't any memory—have you?" They have continued to have a relationship after this event.*

What had happened to the nest that was found in the field? Give at least one detail from the passage to support your answer.

*A blade cutting hay had gone over the top of the nest, exposing it: "The cutter-bar had just gone champing over."*

What can you infer from the speaker's use of contrast and irony in these lines: "All this to prove we cared. Why is there then No more to tell? We turned to other things."

*He is bothered by the fact that they seemed to care enough about the birds to try to cover the nest, even if it meant the mother bird would not come back, but they didn't care enough to go back to check on the baby birds later.*

Although there is no way to really know (because the speaker and friend did not go back to check), do you think the baby birds survived? Provide details from the text to support your inference.

*I do not think they survived. There are many details that support a bad outcome for the babies. The mother bird has already been "deferred" too long. The speaker talks of the "risk of doing good" And says that they are "meddling."*