



# Drawing Conclusions

Being able to draw conclusions from your reading is another very important reading comprehension skill to have. For instance, authors don't always tell you the main idea of a selection. Sometimes, they suggest it through a series of small bits of information or details that add up to one main idea. They leave it to you to draw the right conclusion based on the hints you get from the story. A conclusion is a sensible decision you reach based on details or facts in a story or article.

There are four questions you can ask yourself that will help you draw conclusions as you read:

### Questions to Ask Before Drawing Conclusions

1. What **facts** have I learned about the subject from the story?
2. What facts do I know about the subject from real life?
3. How is the **information I know from real life** (prior knowledge) related to the story?
4. What is my conclusion (decision) when I add all these answers together?

You can tell from the questions that the most important elements to have when you draw conclusions are the **facts and prior knowledge**.

Read the following paragraph and ask yourself the four questions that help you draw conclusions:

Keith threw his pencil on the table. He had been writing for two hours and he was tired! His teacher had assigned this report three weeks ago, but he had waited until tonight to start. It was due in the morning. He knew it was no use to complain to his mom and dad. They always stood up for his teacher!

From this story you can tell that

- a. Keith's parents liked his teacher more than they liked him.
- b. Keith's teacher gave unfair assignments.
- c. Keith did not plan his work wisely.

Now, use the four questions to help you draw the right conclusion. If you chose "C", you came to the correct conclusion. The story does **not** say that Keith's parents like his teacher best. It also does **not** say that the teacher was unfair. The story does give you the idea that Keith did not plan his work wisely. Why? He started too late! Perhaps, you know someone who failed to plan wisely like Keith did.



**The Reading Watch Dog says,**  
***"The key elements to have when you draw conclusions are the facts and prior knowledge."***