

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x

A mathematically precise model for inference.

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x

IN-

within / inside



-FER

to carry / to bear



A Prediction

I believe this will happen...

A Conclusion

Based on the evidence, I know...

A Generalization

This is true for most...

An Interpretation

What this really means is...

A Synthesis

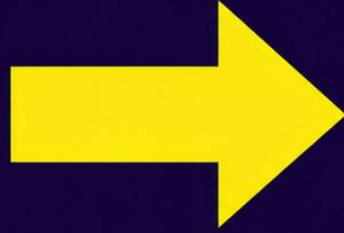
Putting it all together...

IN- = within

-FER = carry

IN-FER = carry meaning from within

IN



FER

within / inside

carry / bear

To infer = to carry meaning from within.

INTRĀ FERRE = IN-FERRE

CARRY FROM WITHIN

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = X

TEXT

clues and
evidence from
what you read

KNOWLEDGE

what you
already know
about life, people,
the world

In-Fer

the thinking
operation —
carry meaning out

X

what you figure out:
conclusion,
prediction,
understanding.

THE **IN-FER** PROCESS

1



Text has
meaning
hidden within
(in-)

2



You gather
text evidence
+ your —
knowledge

3



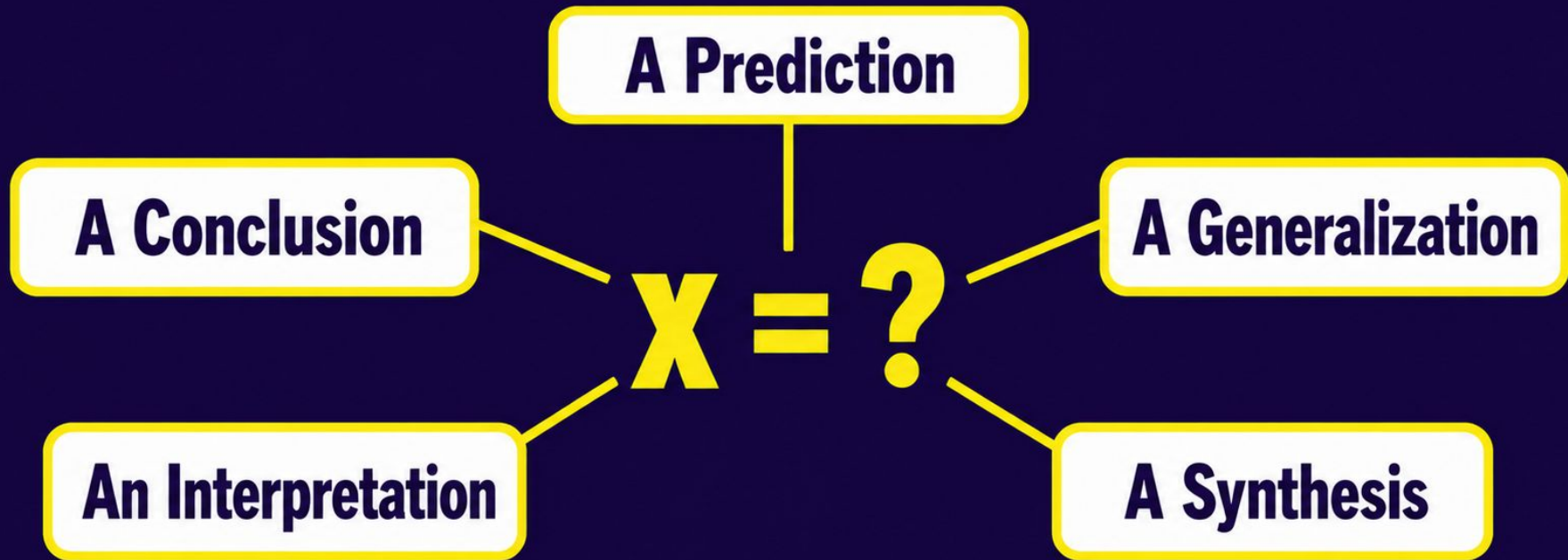
You carry
(-fer) that
hidden
meaning out

4



x = your
extracted
understanding.

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x



The operation is always the same. Only **x** changes.

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x

Family 1 — In-Fer Activated

Meaning is hidden within

Indirect — suggests meaning without stating it

In-Fer
activated

Implicit — meaning is implied, not stated

In-Fer
activated

Figurative — metaphor, simile, symbolism

In-Fer
activated

Abstract — ideas not tied to physical objects

In-Fer
activated

Connotative — emotional or cultural meaning beyond the literal

In-Fer
activated

Family 2 — No In-Fer Needed

Meaning is on the surface

Direct — states meaning clearly and plainly

stated
outright

Explicit — everything is spelled out

stated
outright

Literal — words mean exactly what they say

stated
outright

Concrete — tangible, physical objects or experiences

stated
outright

Denotative — the dictionary definition only

stated
outright

Family 1 language = meaning is within. Activate In-Fer.



(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x

Grade 3 • 'Ben's Book' • Q10

STAAR stem: *What do the events suggest about Dad's relationship with Ben?*

TEXT



What happened
in the story.



KNOWLEDGE



What I already know
about life, people,
and the world.



IN-FER



I carry the clues
together with what
I know.



X

x = conclusion:
Dad knows how
important the book
is to Ben.



Signal word:
suggest

Grade 3 • Cross-text • Q18

STAAR stem: *What will Ben and the speaker most likely do next?*

TEXT



What happened
in the texts.



KNOWLEDGE



What I already know
about life, people,
and the world.



IN-FER



I carry the clues
together with what
I know.



X

x = prediction:
They will both learn
to like something
new.



Signal word:
most likely

Same equation. Different x. Same cognitive move.

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x

The City Lost in the Snow • English II • Q20 • 2023 Practice Test

STAAR question stem: *How does the cultural setting influence Sigismondo's attitude?*

TEXT

Sigismondo had no job before the snow. He now calculates every shovelful, driven by secret ambition to 'get ahead in the world.'

KNOWLEDGE

In post-WWII industrial cities, jobs were scarce. People were deeply grateful for any work opportunity.

IN-FER

The author never says he's grateful because jobs are scarce. I carry that meaning out using cultural context.

X

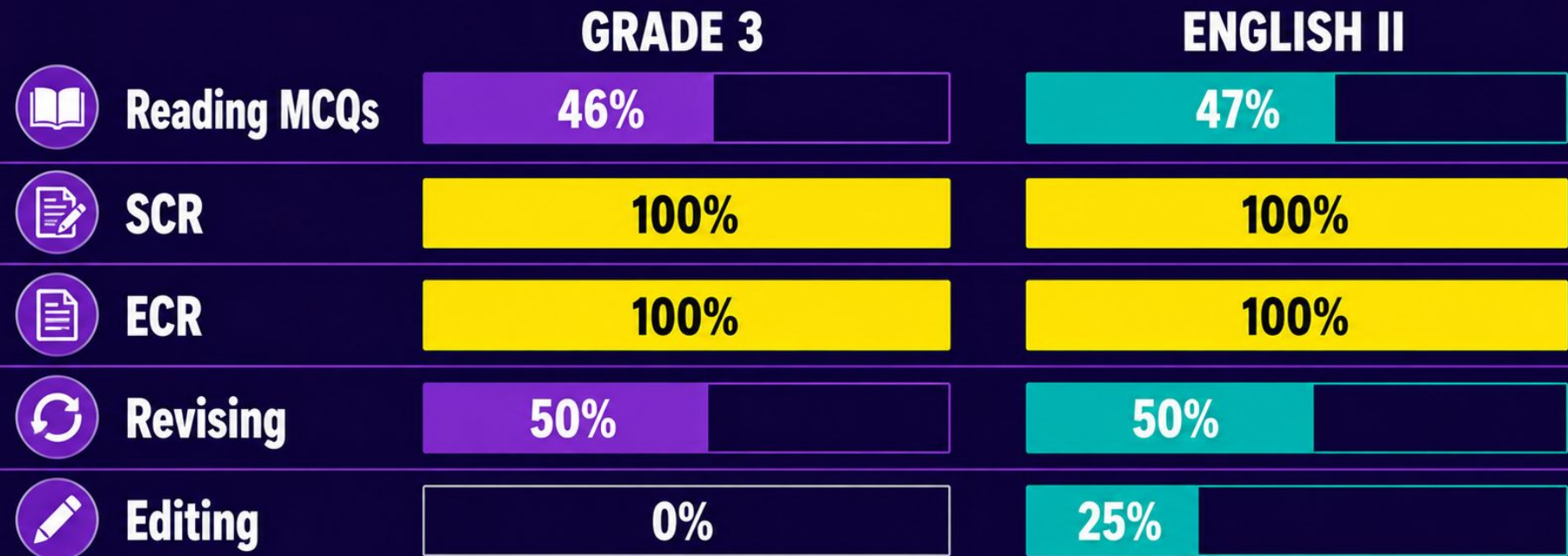
The scarcity of jobs makes Sigismondo appreciate the temporary employment the snow provides.



Answer: C

STAAR signal: 'influences attitude' → **x** = character understanding

(Text + Knowledge) In-Fer = x



**SCRs and ECRs are 100% inference — every time.
Nearly half of every STAAR test cannot be answered without In-Fer.**