

Inference Investigator Answer Key

Possible Inferences with Supporting Clues:

1. Daniel's feelings:

- *Inference:* Daniel is nervous or anxious about the test.
- *Clues:* "pencil tapping nervously," "eyes darted toward the clock," "foot shook," "deep sigh."

2. Looking at the clock:

- *Inference:* He may be worried about running out of time or feels pressured.
- *Clues:* Repeated glances at the clock suggest concern with time rather than the questions.

3. Teacher's gaze:

- *Inference:* The teacher suspects Daniel is distracted, worried, or possibly struggling.
- *Clues:* "steady gaze," "silent but watchful" implies close monitoring, not casual observation.

4. What happens next:

- *Inference:* Daniel might either rush to finish the test under pressure or possibly freeze and struggle more.
- *Clues:* His "swallowed hard" and "gripping the pencil tighter" suggest building tension that will affect his next action.

Teacher Notes:

- Accept variations if students provide **logical reasoning linked to the text**.
- Remind students that inference = text clue + reasoning.
- To extend: Ask students to rewrite the last sentence of the passage, predicting what Daniel does next, using inferences as their guide.