

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Inference Investigation

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. After reading, think about what the author *implies* but does not say directly. These implied ideas are called **inferences**. Write one inference for each question based on clues in the text. Then, find and quote a sentence or phrase from the passage that supports your inference. Remember: Strong inferences are always supported by **clear textual evidence**.

### “The Empty Stage”

When Maya walked into the auditorium, her footsteps echoed off the wooden floor. The seats were empty, but the faint scent of paint and sawdust still hung in the air. She ran her fingers across the edge of the stage, remembering how nervous she had been during auditions last week.

Her script was still folded in her pocket, crumpled from hours of practice. Maya smiled as she noticed a single spotlight shining down on the center of the stage—it reminded her of the moment she forgot her line, then quickly recovered. Now, as she stood there alone, she took a deep breath and whispered, “Next time, I’ll be ready.”

Question	Inference	Text Evidence
1. How does Maya feel about the stage?		
2. What does the crumpled script suggest about her personality?		
3. What can you infer about what happened during her audition?		
4. What does Maya mean when she says, “Next time, I’ll be ready”?		