

Inference Countdown Answer Key

Sample Answers:

1. *What is happening at the beginning of the story?*
→ Nancy is entering an old theater at night to investigate something mysterious.
2. *Why is Nancy at the old theater?*
→ She's helping Mrs. Waverly find a missing emerald necklace that disappeared during rehearsal.
3. *What might the shadow at the end suggest?*
→ Someone else is hiding in the theater—possibly the thief or someone trying to stop her.

Expected Benchmarks (5th–6th Grade Readers):

- 15 sec: 30–45 words
- 30 sec: 60–85 words
- 60 sec: 115–145 words
- Growth Goal: Accuracy improves and comprehension deepens with each round.

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students strengthen fluency by **rereading the same passage under timed conditions** while also practicing **inferential reasoning** when full comprehension isn't yet possible.

Implementation Tips:

- Model one round first, showing how to track the last word read and use context to infer meaning.
- Emphasize that **wrong answers are not failures**; the purpose is to see how inference and reading fluency connect.
- Encourage students to read naturally, not rush.
- For struggling readers, reduce to two rounds (30 & 60 seconds) and add guided feedback between attempts.