Teacher’s Script

APPENDIX 1

Step 1: What. "Today I'm going to teach you how to draw inferences from unstated information. When writers write, they do not tell you everything. There are details or ideas that they leave out. These are unstated information or ideas. As a reader, you need to find out where important details or ideas are left out and then try to figure out what those unstated information or ideas are."

Step 2: Why. "As you read, it is important for you to to figure out unstated ideas because writers cannot write every thing. They leave out certain information, so you must be able to fill in these missing ideas. This will make the story more complete. Then you will understand and enjoy what you read better."

Step 3: How. "First, I'm going to show you the types of ideas writers usually leave out. [Teacher displays chart shown in Figure 3.] Let's look at the different kinds of information that writers can leave out. Can someone read number 1? [Student reads example.] Good. Now, can someone answer the question 'Who is Polly?' [Students respond.] Yes, Polly is a baseball player. So this is one kind of information that a writer usually leave out. In example number 1, the missing information is about people: who a person is or what a person does. [Teacher works through the remaining categories on Figure 3 (see page 41) in a similar manner.]

"So the six examples we've just discussed show us the kinds of information writers can leave out. They include things such as people, animals, and places.

Next, let's consider the steps that readers can use to figure out unstated ideas. Look at this second chart. [Teacher displays the 'How to Figure Out Unstated Ideas' chart; see Figure 4 (see page 42)]. The first step requires you to read and understand the facts given in the text. That is, as a reader you should first try to figure out what the stated ideas are; those given by the writer."
[Teacher models the steps using the story "The Pencil" which is displayed on the board.]

"Let's see, step 1 says that first I should read and understand the facts. I'll begin by reading part of the story first. [Teacher reads aloud the story.] It says here that Ma Li drew with sticks and stones because he is poor. Ma Li longed for a pencil to draw with. Nobody was around when Ma Li said he wanted a pencil so that he could draw for the poor villagers. It also says that an old man appeared and then disappeared and that he gave Ma Li a pencil.

"Step 2 says that I should decide what the writer has left out. This will mean that I'll need to figure out who the old man was and what kind of pencil he gave Ma Li. This means that I need to figure out unstated people and kind of object.

"Step 3 says that I need to figure out these unstated ideas by thinking about what I know and looking for clues in the story. The old man seemed to know about what Ma Li wanted even though he was not near Ma Li when he (Ma Li) expressed his wish for a pencil. Only magicians have this power to hear and know what people want. Also the story says that the old man could appear and then disappear. Only magicians have the power to appear and disappear, not ordinary people. Also, the pencil that he gave Ma Li must be a magic pencil if the man was a magician."

"Step 4 says that I should read on to check whether the guesses I have made are correct. [Teacher reads on.] It is stated that everything that Ma Li drew with the pencil became real. This means that the pencil was a magic pencil and this also may mean that the old man had some magical powers. [Teacher continues with the verbalization of her mental processes as she draws inferences based on textually explicit and textually implicit information].

[Teacher then gives the students another story for them to practice using the new strategy. Teacher tells the students how much of the story to read to start with. Teacher then reminds the students to put into practice steps 1 and 2; that is, understanding what the writer has written explicitly and then to figure out what the writer has omitted. This guided practice goes on with the remainder of

104
the steps while, at the same time, the teacher provides guidance and corrective feedback.]

Step 4: When "I would like to summarize the steps we use when trying to draw inferences. To understand what you read, be it stories or your text books, you firstly, need to find out what the unstated ideas are."

"Second, use the five steps to guide you when figuring out what the writer has left out."

(adapted from Baumann, 1991)
READING COMPREHENSION PRETEST

This test booklet consists of four passages. Answer all the questions in the booklet. Indicate your answers by circling the correct options.

Name: ____________________________
Form: ____________________________
PASSAGE 1

The train was rather full. At the last station before the frontier, a small man with a fat stomach got in, carrying a big paper package. It was carefully packed, but the feet of two ducks could be seen outside the paper. The man found an empty seat, put the package in the middle of the floor, took out a newspaper and began to read it.

The other passengers knew that people were not allowed to take food across the frontier, so they were very surprised that the little man was foolish enough to leave the ducks' legs where they could be seen so easily.

When the train reached the frontier, a policeman came in to look at the passengers' passports and to examine their luggage. Of course, he saw the package with the ducks' legs at once and said, 'Whose package is that?'

Nobody answered.

The policeman repeated the question, and added, 'I shall have to take it away from the owner. Nobody's allowed to take food out of the country.'

'Well, then,' said the small man with the fat stomach, 'hurry up and take it. We want to get home.' The policeman took the package and went on to the next carriage.

At the next station when they were safely across the frontier, the small man got up, smiled at the other passengers and said, 'I hope that they'll enjoy the ducks' feet. The rest of the package had nothing but rubbish in it.'

Then he opened his coat and pointed to another paper package which he was carrying under it.

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. How many ducks' feet could be seen sticking out of the paper package?
   A. Two
   B. Three
   C. Four

2. Why do you think the small man left the ducks' legs uncovered?
   A. To attract the attention of the policeman.
   B. He did not have enough paper to cover them with.
   C. To show off to the other passengers that he had food with him.

3. Why do you think nobody was allowed to take food out of the country?
   A. The policeman was too strict.
   B. There was too much food in the country.
   C. There was not enough food for the people of the country.
4. What do you think was under the small man's coat?
   A  The two ducks.
   B  His fat stomach.
   C  The empty paper package.

5. The ducks were probably ...
   A  rotten
   B  cooked
   C  not alive
PASSAGE 2

Early one morning, a poor old woman was walking from her village to the town. She was carrying a big sack of cabbages on her head. She was taking them to the market, where she hoped to sell them to the people from the town.

The road which the old woman was on was over a mountain. There was a cliff on one side, and a wall of rock on the other. There was very little traffic at that early hour, but the old woman was walking carefully at the side of the road, because she did not want to have an accident and lose her cabbages.

But as she was climbing a hill, she suddenly heard a loud bell, and a bicycle came round the corner and passed her, going very fast down the hill. The old woman had to jump to one side so quickly that the sack of cabbages nearly fell into the ditch.

She looked up, and saw a young girl from the town, wearing green trousers and a red blouse, was riding the bicycle. She was riding on without even looking round to see whether the old lady was all right.

The old woman began to shout. "Come back, lady! Come back! You dropped something!"

The girl heard the old woman's shouts and stopped her bicycle so suddenly that she nearly fell off. Then she turned and began to push the bicycle back up the hill. She had ridden on quite a long way past the old woman, and the slope was steep. She was, therefore, quite hot and tired when she at last reached the old woman again.

"What is it?" she asked. "What did I drop?"

"Little lady," the old woman answered, "you dropped your manners."

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. How did the old woman earn money?
   A  By selling cabbages in the town.
   B  By taking the cabbages to town.
   C  By carrying the cabbages on the road.

2. From the story, we can tell that the old woman was ....
   A  strong and powerful.
   B  hardworking and fierce.
   C  hardworking and strong.

3. Where do you think the old woman planted her cabbages?
   A  On her farm in the town.
   B  On her farm on the mountain.
   C  In her village near the market.
4. How was the road from the village to the town?
   A. Wide and flat.
   B. Narrow and steep.
   C. Winding and wide.

5. Why did the old woman call the young girl back?
   A. The old woman wanted to scold her.
   B. The young girl had dropped something.
   C. To tell the young girl that she was rude.
PASSAGE 3

I was already all wet when yet another storm came. I tried to shelter under the trees, but the rain still came through. It fell down like a river from the sky. I couldn’t see through it. I just held my stick tightly and struggled on. Suddenly the rain stopped and I saw a bigger river in front of me. I felt new hope. This was a better road.

I moved onto the bank of the new river. I was hungry but I couldn’t find any sweets in my bag. Why? I felt inside the bag again, and found... a big hole.

“All the sweets have gone,” I thought, “so now I haven’t got any food. But I can still drink, so I can still walk.”

I moved slowly and painfully along the bank. I could see alligators in the big river and they could see me. They started to swim towards me. I could see their ugly mouths full of sharp teeth. I tried to hurry, but I had to walk carefully. I had to watch the ground in front of me. I had to watch for snakes, spiders, ants, and alligators. The flies and mosquitoes were always there. They never stopped. Buzz... buzz... bite... buzz... buzz. The flies were the worst. They stung me again and again. Then I remembered about the flies. They lay their eggs under your skin. You must get them out quickly. The eggs grow into terrible maggots, and the maggots eat your flesh.

“I must go on,” I thought. “I must find help. I must find people. Where are all the Indians?”

I saw birds and butterflies. I saw beautiful flowers and bright berries. I saw lots of animals. Monkeys played in the trees or ran along the bank in front of me. They played happily and were not frightened and didn’t run away. Then I knew. There weren’t any Indians near us. The Indians hunt monkeys.

(source unknown)

1. Who was the writer with?
   She was ...
   A all alone.
   B with a friend.
   C with the Indians.

2. Why did the writer need a stick?
   A To frighten the alligators.
   B She was very weak and tired.
   C To keep the wild animals away.

3. When do you think the storm took place?
   A At night.
   B At mid-night.
   C During the day.
4. How did the writer hope to find her way out of the jungle?
   A  She used a stick.
   B  By following the river.
   C  With the help of the Indians.

5. Why was it difficult for the writer to find her way out of the jungle?
   A  She was lost in the jungle.
   B  The jungle was too thick and the weather was bad.
   C  She was frightened of the alligators, snakes, spiders, monkeys and flies.
PASSAGE 4

Once there was a poor farmer who borrowed a hundred baskets of rice seeds from a rich man. The farmer promised the rich man that he would be able to pay him after the harvest. But there was very little rain that year, and the harvest was bad. When the rich man went to get his rice from the poor farmer, he found him sitting on a mat and looking very sad.

"Where is my rice?" said the rich man. "I am sorry, but I cannot pay you, and I have no wife or children who can work for you to pay the money. I can work for you, but I'm often ill, so I cannot work well."

The rich man knew that the farmer had a bad lung, and he thought, "If he works for me, I shall have to pay a lot for his medicines." So he said, "Then give me all your furniture."

"I have nothing except this mat," said the poor farmer, so the rich man took the mat and went away.

The poor farmer went to the village temple and became a servant there. He cleaned the garden, sowed seeds and watered the trees and plants carefully every day, and for this he was given food to eat and clothes to wear.

He treated the trees so well that after a year a tree-god showed him where there was a vase full of gold under the roots of a tree, and the poor farmer became very rich.

When the man who lent him the rice heard about this, he went to the judge and said, "This man owes me a hundred baskets of rice, less the price of the mat which I got from him."

The wise judge answered, "By accepting the mat from the farmer, you finished that business. He owes you nothing now."

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. What did the poor farmer do with the rice he borrowed?
   He wanted to ...
   A sell it.
   B cook it.
   C plant it.

2. From the story, we can tell that planting rice requires ...
   A no rain at all.
   B plenty of rain.
   C very little rain.

3. The rich man took the mat from the poor man.
   This shows that the rich man was...
   A greedy and unkind.
   B unkind and helpful.
   C helpful and thoughtful.
4. Where was the tree with a vase of gold under its roots?
   A In the temple's garden.
   B In the rich man's garden.
   C In the poor farmer's garden.

5. Why did the rich man go to the judge?
   He hoped that the judge would ...
   A punish the farmer.
   B give him some of the gold.
   C take the gold away from the farmer.
This test booklet consists of four passages. Answer all the questions in the booklet. Indicate your answers by circling the correct options.
There was once a captain who loved money so much that he cheated his sailors at the end of every voyage and took their wages.

On the last day of one voyage, they stopped at a small port. It was wintertime, and the sea was very cold, so the captain said to his sailors, "If one of you stays in the water during the whole night, I will give him my ship. But if he comes out before the sun appears, I shall get his wages."

The sailors had heard about the captain's cheating, so they did not trust him. But then, one of them, who thought that he was cleverer than the captain, said that he would do it. He got into the water, and though it was very cold, stayed in it. When it was nearly morning, some fishermen lit a fire on the shore about half a mile away.

"You are cheating," the captain said to the sailor. "That fire's warming you."

"But it's half a mile away!" said the sailor.

"A fire's a fire," answered the captain. "I have won."

The sailor came out of the water, and said, "Perhaps you think that you are clever because you have won my wages, but you can't cook a chicken."

"I can," answered the captain.

"If you can cook this chicken," said the sailor, "I shall work for you without wages for seven years, but if you cannot, you will give me your ship."

The captain agreed, took the chicken and said, "Where's the fire?"

"There it is," answered the sailor. "On the shore."

"But it's half a mile away," said the captain angrily.

"A fire's a fire, you said," answered the sailor. "If it was enough to warm me in the water, it is enough to cook your chicken."

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. Why do you think the ship was anchored half a mile from the shore?

A. The water was too deep near the shore.
B. The water was too shallow for the ship near the shore.
C. The captain did not want his sailors to get off the ship.

2. Where did the sailors spend most of their time working?

A. At sea.
B. At the port.
C. At the harbour.
3. Why was the captain angry when he realized that he had to cook the chicken with a fire that was half a mile away?

   It was because he realized that ... 

   A  the sailor had tricked him.  
   B  the fire was not as hot as he wanted it.  
   C  his chicken would not be well-cooked.

4. What kind of person do you think the captain was?

   A  greedy and honest.  
   B  greedy and cunning.  
   C  cunning and honest.

5. Who did the sailor learn his trick from?

   A  He himself.  
   B  The captain.  
   C  The other sailors.
Miss Robinson had been taking driving lessons and trying to pass her driving test for several years, but she failed every time because she always became too excited and did silly things when she was driving a car. Now she was taking the test again, but she made so many mistakes that she was sure that she had no chance of passing, so she was very surprised when the examiner nodded at the end of her test and said, "All right, Miss Robinson, I am going to pass you."

The next morning, she went out in her car alone for the first time. Her face was red, her hands were sweating and she was hardly able to believe that it was no longer necessary for her to have a good driver with her in the car whenever she went out in it.

She came to the first traffic lights and she was very glad when she managed to stop the car quite smoothly and at the right place in the street. She did not want to look foolish in front of the other drivers in the street.

While she was waiting for the lights to change from red to green, an old lady came to the window of her car, and when Miss Robinson opened the window and looked out, the old lady asked whether she was going into the town.

"Yes," Miss Robinson answered. "I am. I am going to the Public Library."

"Will you please take me as far as the market-place?" the old lady asked. "I have an appointment at the hospital, and there isn’t a bus for another hour."

Miss Robinson had still not really understood that at last she had passed her test, and now she surprised the old lady very much by answering, "I am very sorry, but I can’t drive."

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. Who does the "good driver" refer to?
   A an instructor.
   B another driver.
   C a skilled and experienced driver.

2. Why did Miss Robinson’s face turn red and her hands sweat when she drove without ‘the good driver’ for the first time?
   A She had not passed her driving test.
   B She was not confident driving alone.
   C She liked to have someone with her when driving.
3. Why did Miss Robinson have to take many tests before getting her driving license?

She was very ......
A calm
B nervous.
C confident.

4. Where do you think was the hospital located?

A Near the market place.
B Beside the public library.
C In the same building as the market.

5. Why do you think Miss Robinson did not give the old lady a lift into town?

A She did not like the old lady.
B She did not know the way to the market place.
C She still could not believe she had passed her test.
PASSAGE 3

Our rocket landed at last on the Planet Zar, and Henry and I got out quickly. We wanted to find the hills of gold straight away. We looked around. Everywhere there were low hills and dark pits. Some of the hills shone brightly. Were they made of gold? We were not sure. The place was very quiet for there was nobody around.

Suddenly we heard a loud explosion. The noise was so great that we jumped. We turned around and saw our rocket in flames. It was like a terrible ball of fire but it was gone in a few seconds. We were very frightened. What was happening? Then we saw a strange creature in front of us. He was a tiny man with a thin, pointed face and long, pointed ears. His skin was rough and grey, like an elephant’s. He looked fiercely at us. There was a ball of fire in his hand. He threw it at one of the hills, and the hill burst into flames too.

"I did this to your rocket. I can do this to you too," he laughed.

Then suddenly we saw more of these strange men. They were climbing out of the dark pits. They were like giant ants climbing out of the holes in the ground.

"Come with me," ordered the man in front of us. "We’re taking you to see our king, the King of the Planet Zar."

"Do as they say, John," whispered Henry. "They’re very dangerous men."

They led us to a very deep hole in the ground. They pushed Henry, and then me, into the hole. We slid down easily, as if we were on a slide. Soon we reached a very big room. It was a very beautiful room with walls that shone like gold. The King of Zar was standing on a large white rock. "Welcome to the Planet Zar," he said.

(source unknown)

1. Which planet do you think Henry and John came from?
   A  Earth
   B  Planet Zar
   C  The deep holes

2. Where did the people of Planet Zar live?
   A  In caves
   B  In big rooms
   C  Deep underground
3. How was the surface of the Planet Zar?
   A  Even
   B  Uneven
   C  Smooth

4. Why did John and Henry obey the men?
   A  They did not like the men.
   B  They hoped to get the gold.
   C  They did not want to get hurt.

5. Why do you think the strange man carried a ball of fire in his hand?
   A  To show off his power.
   B  To entertain the boys.
   C  To please his king.
PASSAGE 4

There was once a tiger who, although he was big and strong, had never learned to walk quietly and carefully when he went hunting in the jungle. “I shall soon die because I cannot catch anything to eat,” he thought.

Then he remembered his cousin, the cat. He went to her and said, “If you teach me how to hunt, I will be your servant for three years.”

He persuaded the cat to become his teacher, and the tiger began to clean the cat’s house and prepare her meals and obediently do everything that she wanted. He also went everywhere with her and learned how to hunt. After some time, the cat became jealous of the tiger and so she did not teach the tiger one important thing.

When the three years ended, the tiger said to the cat, “Have I learned everything now?”

“Yes,” answered the cat, but she was not being truthful.

The tiger now began to hunt by himself, but the animals still knew when he was coming and ran away. He was very disappointed, but at last he realized that when he was excited, he hit the ground with his tail and the animals heard this and ran away.

The tiger was angry. “Why did the cat not teach me that?” he said. He went to the judge and accused the cat. The judge said, “Because the cat lied to the tiger and did not teach him everything, as he had promised, she must pay the tiger’s wages for the three years during which the tiger worked for her.”

(adapted from: Hill, 1974)

1. Why was the tiger unable to catch any animals for his food?
   A. He did not like hunting.
   B. He was not a good hunter.
   C. He had not yet met the cat.

2. The tiger had to learn how to walk quietly and carefully...
   A. because he was hungry,
   B. because he wanted to frighten the other animals.
   C. in order to get near the other animals to catch them.
3. Why did the tiger go to the cat?
   A The cat was a teacher.
   B The cat was a good and clever hunter.
   C The cat told the tiger to learn from her.

4. Why did the cat not teach the tiger everything about hunting?
   A She wanted the tiger to die of hunger.
   B She was afraid the tiger would become a better hunter.
   C She thought the tiger had learnt enough about hunting.

5. Who taught the tiger to be a good hunter in the end?
   A He learnt from his own mistakes.
   B The judge taught him everything about hunting.
   C The cat was asked by the judge to continue teaching the tiger.