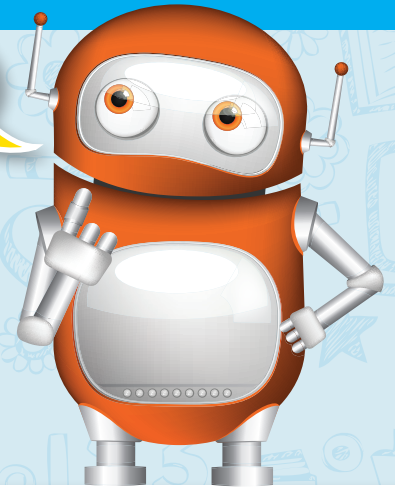# Making inferences

↻ Recap

How do you make inferences?

Sometimes an author doesn't tell you everything in a text. You have to use clues in the text to work out what is happening. This is called making inferences.
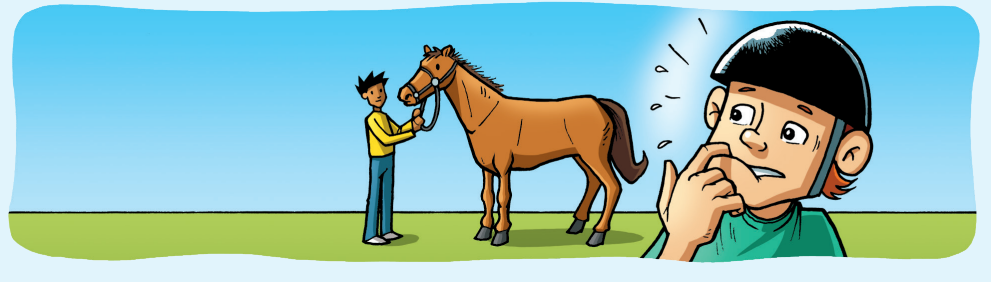
Revise

In this example, the author does not simply write: 'Oliver was nervous about going horse riding'. Instead, she suggests this, by describing Oliver's behaviour.

evidence that suggests Oliver might be feeling nervous

Oliver was at the stables. He was about to go for his first riding lesson **since he had fallen from a horse**. He was wearing his riding hat and riding boots. Oliver watched as Maya put the saddle on **the huge horse**. As he watched, his **hands got all sweaty**, his **face went pale** and his **eyes grew wider**. Oliver **stepped slowly back, away from the horse**.

"Come on Oliver, on you get," said Maya cheerfully.

Oliver didn't move.

Now you can use the evidence in the text to explain what you have inferred about Oliver's behaviour. For example:

Oliver's hands got all sweaty, his face went pale and his eyes grew wider suggests that he is feeling nervous and scared.

The horse was huge and Oliver had not been riding since he fell off are reasons *why* he might be scared.

Oliver backed away from the horse and wouldn't get on when Maya asked him to shows that he didn't want to go.

This is fun – it's just like solving a puzzle!