



# Guess What Happens Next in Stories

KS2 ENGLISH

READING COMPREHENSION

INFERENCE

Ages 9-12  3 min read

## Look for Clues in the Story

Great readers are like detectives! Authors leave **clues** throughout their stories that hint at what will happen next. These clues might be small details about a character's feelings, objects they mention, or changes in the setting.

For example, if a character keeps looking nervously at a locked door, the author is probably hinting that something important happens behind it later. If the weather suddenly turns dark and stormy, something dramatic might be coming.

Think of it like a treasure hunt — the author is dropping breadcrumbs to help you find your way to the ending!

## Understand How Characters Think and Feel

Every character has **motivations** — things they want and reasons they behave certain ways. If you understand what a character truly wants, you can guess what they might do next.

If a character has been cheated by someone, you might predict they'll want revenge. If they're desperate to help a friend, they might take risks. Characters usually act in ways that match their personality and goals.

Think of it like knowing your best friend — if they love adventure, you'd predict they'd say yes to a daring challenge!

## Recognise Common Story Patterns

Many stories follow familiar **patterns** that have been used for hundreds of years. Once you spot the pattern, you can often guess what comes next.

In adventure stories, the **hero** usually faces a problem, tries to solve it, fails once or twice, then learns something important and succeeds. In mystery stories, the author usually plants **red herrings** (false clues) to mislead you before revealing the real culprit.

**Fairy tales** often follow the same structure: a wish, a journey, tests or challenges, and a happy ending. Once you know these patterns, predicting becomes easier.

Think of it like learning the rules of a game — once you know the rules, you can plan your next move!

## **Use What You Already Know**

Your own life experience helps you predict stories. If you've felt nervous before a test, you understand how a character might feel before a big moment. This helps you guess what they'll do.

The best predictors combine all these skills: they notice clues, understand characters, recognise patterns, and use their own knowledge. This makes reading much more fun and interesting!