

It Says - I Say - And So... – Dolly Pickles Example

It is important when reading to relate what is in the text with what is in your mind to create educated guesses as you read. It's important to actively infer when you read. Inferences help readers think deeply about the text during reading. Readers should annotate the judgments they make in the margins as they come to important points, words and ideas and make inferences about them.

Here's an example using what Tim Winton tells readers about Dolly Pickles early in the text. Note the 'It says' places in the **text** below that help readers make judgments about Dolly Pickles. See how in analysis, the reader has referred to the question/prompts for making inferences (on the attached sheet) and then filled in the "**I say**" column. After making inferences, the reader wrote statements about Dolly Pickles' character in the "**And so...**" box.

Text – It says	Inferences from the text – I say
<p>Dolly saw it was his right hand. His bloody working hand. A man could hardly pick his nose with a thumb and half a pointer. They were done for; stuffed, cactus. Thank you. Lady Luck, you rotten slut. It was probably time now to pack a bag and buy a ticket, but hell, there was the kids and everything. This whole town knowing. How would she live? (p 15)</p> <p>Dolly stood in the room with her daughter. You had to watch this kid. She was going to be a clever little miss. And she was Sam's through and through... The only thing we've got in common these days is a useless man. Dolly'd always gone for useless ones. But this was the living end.</p> <p>The woman and the daughter do not speak. The crippled man does not stir. The breeze comes in the window and tops the scene from turning into a painting (p 16)</p>	<p>Dolly sees Sam's injury and curses her bad fortune. She considers leaving him, but wonders how she can continue. We learn that they have children together.</p> <p>Dolly's relationship with her husband and daughter seems strained.</p>
<p>My interpretations/ questions (annotate) - And so... I think that there seems to be little communication in the Pickles family. I judge that Dolly seems focused only on herself and her needs and resents her husband. It seems that she and her daughter have a very strained relationship, and she may be a bit jealous of her daughter. I predict that Dolly will stay with the family but the relationships will not be happy for any of them. I wonder if either woman will want to try to resolve this situation.</p>	

Sam Pickles

Underline or highlight several places in the **text** below that can help you make a judgment about Sam Pickles. Refer to the question prompts for making inferences and then fill in the “**I say**” column. After making your inferences, write a statement about Sam Pickles’ character traits in the “**And so...**” box.

Text – It says	Inferences from the text – I say
<p>Sam Pickles was a fool to get out of bed that day, and it knew it ever after. In the aging, hammocky cot he caught the scent of his father. (p 8)</p> <p>Sam knew, as anybody will know, that when you wake up on a summer morning fifty miles out to sea on an island made entirely of birdshit and fig-ends, where only yesterday the rubbershod foot of a Japanese soldier was washed up, and you turn in your bed and smell your dead father right beside you, the you know the shifty shadow of God is lurking. And Sam knew damnwell that when the shifty shadow is about, you roll yourself a smoke and stay under the sheet and don’t move til you see what happens.....</p> <p>Sam Pickles, who thought today wasn’t his day to be worried, and who happened to be dead wrong, just waited for the odour of his old man to leave him, and then cocked his head, whistled through his teeth at the shiftiness of it all, and slid off the cot. Tiny crabs scuttered across the boards away from him. (p 9)</p> <p>... That’s what he was thinking of when the cable caught his glove and his hand was taken from him... four fingers fell to the deck and danced like half a pound of live prawns. (p 13)</p>	
<p>My Interpretations/Questions (Annotate) - And so...</p>	

It Says – I Say – And So - Questions/Prompts

As you read and annotate, it is important to connect what is in the text with what is in your mind to make inferences and interpretations. Use the guiding questions/statements below for each step of the 'It says – I say – And so' strategy to practise thinking deeply about the text and drawing on the author's ideas and your own as you annotate.

It says... (Ask yourself these questions & underline or highlight text that makes you ask them)

- What words, phrases, ideas, or images stand out when I read this piece?
- What are the main/important ideas? Hint: Which words or ideas are repeated or emphasised in more than one sentence?

I say... (Think about these and apply your answers to 'And So')

- What do I already know about this character, situation, theme? Can I bring in my personal/world knowledge too?
- What has the author already revealed?
- What does the evidence tell me? Hint: Evidence may be in the form of examples, imagery, symbols, key words or anecdotes.

And so... (Make notes about your interpretations in the margins or digitally in ebooks; or you could start by using the provided template)

- I conclude...
- I think...
- I judge...
- I predict...
- I wonder...
- I question...