

Inside Reading Level 3
Unit 8 Skill Review: Making Inferences

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Unit 8 Review Skill asks you what Karl Sr. means in Reading 2 when he says “You don’t know what it’s like with Karl”? It then asks you to support your inferences with information from the Reading.

Let’s take a look at how to make inferences. Read the following excerpt from Reading 1 “Child Prodigies.” Then answer the questions that follow.

1 Another two-year-old child, Jay Greenberg, likewise surprised his parents by drawing pictures of musical instruments that he had never seen. They soon discovered that Jay “heard music in his head.” He began to compose music at age three. By age ten, he was attending the well-known Juilliard Conservatory in New York, composing full symphonies. Jay was noted not only for the quality of his musical work, but also the speed at which he was able to produce it. That is, while talented professional composers normally write five or six symphonies in a lifetime, Jay wrote five by the age of 12.

2 A third young child, Abigail Sin, was first introduced to piano lessons at age five and had what her tutor called an “unstoppable urge to master the keyboard.” She became Singapore’s most celebrated pianist by age ten.

3 Child prodigies such as these are a mystery to experts and non-experts alike. On the one hand, they attract praise and attention from everyone they meet; on the other hand, they attract criticism, and they find it difficult to fit in with the rest of the world.

1. Read the underlined sentence in paragraph 3. Circle the word *mystery*, which means “something that is unknown.” Think about what you know and what you’ve read about child prodigies. Why might they be a mystery even to experts? Record your answer here:

2. Paragraph 1 discusses the child prodigy Jay Greenberg. Underline the phrases or statements that show why Jay is a prodigy.
3. Paragraph 2 discusses the child prodigy Abigail Sin. Why is she considered a prodigy? Underline phrases or statements that tell why.
4. Review what you’ve underlined. From these statements, what can you infer about why child prodigies are a mystery? Add anything that you haven’t already stated above.

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Answer Key

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3 Child prodigies such as these are a mystery to experts and non-experts alike. On the one hand, they attract praise and attention from everyone they meet; on the other hand, they attract criticism, and they find it difficult to fit in with the rest of the world.

1. Read the underlined sentence in paragraph 3. Circle the word *mystery*, which means “something that is unknown.” Think about what you know and what you’ve read about child prodigies. Why might they be a mystery even to experts? Record your answer here:

Possible answers: Child prodigies remain a mystery because we don’t know enough about the brain to explain why someone so young can have such a developed brain.

2. Paragraph 1 discusses the child prodigy Jay Greenberg. Underline the phrases or statements that show why Jay is a prodigy.
3. Paragraph 2 discusses the child prodigy Abigail Sin. Why is she considered a prodigy? Underline phrases or statements that tell why.
4. Review what you’ve underlined. From these statements, what can you infer about why child prodigies are a mystery? Add anything that you haven’t already stated above.

Possible answers: The age at which these young people master skills is much younger than typical adults. These youngsters are very self-motivated.