Inference—Middle Grades

Remember that when you infer, or make an inference, you are drawing a conclusion based on the information that you know.

Example: Joseph couldn’t wait to go swimming at Cal’s house. He got everything ready, but when he looked out the window, it was raining.
You can infer that Joseph won’t be going swimming and that he will be disappointed.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Anna sighed in frustration. Her parents had said no when Anna asked if she could go on a ski trip with friends from school. She knew why they were worried, but she also thought they were being over-protective. Sure, she had been sick. Sure, she had to be careful. But, Anna also wanted to be treated like any other girl.

The door to Anna’s room opened, and her mom came in. “Anna,” Mom said, “I know that you are upset with us, but you have to understand. You are still recovering, and we don’t want to have anything happen to you.”

“Mom!” Anna said as tears entered her eyes. “I have been so sick for a long time. Dr. Tiller said that I don’t have to come back for any more treatments. I just have to go back to make sure nothing has come back. I don’t understand why I can’t go on the trip!”

“Anna,” Mom sighed. “Yes, you are done with the treatments, but your body is still recovering. Your immune system is still weak.” Mom could tell that Anna was not convinced.

“Listen, Anna, why don’t I talk with the other parents about the trip. Maybe Dad and I would be more comfortable if one of us went along as a chaperone on the trip. Then, we could keep an eye on you and make sure everything is okay.”

Anna’s face lit up. “Thanks, Mom!”

1. What type of sickness did Anna have?

2. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 1.

3. How does Anna feel about one of her parents going with her on the trip?

4. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 3.

5. Why is this trip important to Anna?

6. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 5.
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1. What type of sickness did Anna have?
   Possibly cancer—or an illness that requires many treatments and could recur

2. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 1.
   I have been so sick for a long time; don’t have to come back for any more treatments.

3. How does Anna feel about one of her parents going with her on the trip?
   Happy

4. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 3.
   Her face lights up.

5. Why is this trip important to Anna?
   She has been sick and hasn’t been able to be a regular kid for a long time.

6. Give at least one detail to support your answer for number 5.
   She wants to be treated “like any other girl.”