

Author Says/I Say

This strategy helps students learn to make inferences as they read. Readers make inferences when they need to figure out what the author means but it is not written in the text. To make an inference, readers use the clues the author provides in a text along with their own prior knowledge to figure out what the author might mean.

To use this strategy, first students think of questions they have as they are reading that are not specifically answered in the text and record these in the “I Wonder” column. Then, they look for what the author writes in the text that might help answer the question and record it in the “The Author Says” column. They also record their own prior knowledge that may help them figure out the answer in the “I Say” column. Finally, they combine the information from the text and their own prior knowledge to answer the question. They list their inferences in the “And So” column.

The Author Says—I Say—And So

<i>I Wonder</i>	<i>The Author Says</i>	<i>I Say</i>	<i>And So</i>
How widespread is unsafe food?	Each year 76 million Americans get sick from food causes, 300,000 are hospitalized, & 5000 die.	I remember tainted spinach killing some people, and I also recall pet food that was contaminated.	It seems we are taking food safety for granted, when we really shouldn't be!
How we can prevent getting sick from food?	The only way to be sure you don't get sick from food is to not eat. The best defense is in the kitchen—we should wash all foods, even organic foods. Cooking foods is safer than eating foods that are uncooked.	I don't think the author is really serious about this. I don't always wash fruits and vegetables, and I've heard that kitchen counters & cutting boards harbor lots of germs I know you have to thoroughly cook meats like hamburger, but I thought uncooked vegetables have more vitamins than if cooked.	I think the author is really saying that we will always face a danger of getting sick from food. I need to change my habits preparing foods, wash everything more thoroughly, & wash my hands more around food. I need to be extra careful with raw foods, especially fruits & vegetables that are eaten uncooked.
Is organic food safer?	Organic food is free of pesticides, herbicides, & antibiotics, but still can be contaminated by bacteria, metals, & other dangerous substances.	People assume that organic food is safe, and organic farmers try to use natural & nontoxic growing methods.	We can't assume any food is free of problems, although organic food might present fewer problems.
Is buying locally grown food safer?	Many foods produced in other countries are grown in poor sanitation conditions & could contain pesticides banned in the US.	I know DDT has long been banned in the US but is still sold to countries that sell us food.	It is a good idea to know where the food you eat is produced.

(from: Buehl, D. (2009). *Classroom strategies for interactive learning* (3rd ed.). Newark, DE: International Reading Association.)