Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Comprehension – Inference vs. Fact (20 points)**

The following is an excerpt from *Encounter* by Jane Yolen. After you read the paragraph carefully, you will be asked to draw conclusions about the passage, based on *connotation, denotation, inferences, figurative language,* and *narrative perspective.*

*I left my hammock and walked to the beach. There were my dream birds again. Only now they were real – three great-sailed canoes floating in the bay. I stared at them all through the night.*

*When the sun rose, each great canoe gave birth to many little ones that swam awkwardly to our shore.*

*I ran then and found our chief still sleeping in his hammock.*

*“Do not welcome them,” I begged him, “My dream is a warning.”*

*But it is our custom to welcome strangers, to give them the tobacco leaf, to feast them with the pepper pot, and to trade gifts.*

*“You are but a child,” our chief said to me. “All children have bad dreams.”*

*The baby canoes spat out many strange creatures, men but not men. We did not know them as human beings, for they hid their bodies in colors, like parrots. Their feet were hidden, also.*

*And many of them had hair growing like bushes on their chins. Three of them knelt before their chief and pushed sticks into the sand. Then I was even more afraid.*

*Our young men left the shelter of the trees. I – who was not yet a man – followed, crying, “Do not welcome them. Do not call them friends.”*

*No one listened to me, for I was but a child.*

*Our chief said, “We must see if they are true men.” So I took one by the hand and pinched it. The hand felt like flesh and blood, but the skin was moon to my sun.*

*The stranger made a funny noise with his mouth, not like talking but like the barking of a yellow dog.*

**Okay, your job is to draw 10 inferences based on the passage.** You must make a statement you believe is fact, and back it up with the language in the text that supports that “fact.” I encourage you to use your own background knowledge and imagination to figure out what is actually happening in the story. Here’s an example:

1. The boy lives near the beach or on an island, possibly in a primitive culture. (He walks from his hammock to the beach; a hammock is a simple, easily-constructed bed, and who lives on the beach?)

**Now, write your statements and rationales on a separate sheet of paper. Try to enjoy it, okay?**

**As an added bonus, try to predict what happens next in the story . . .**