Lesson Question
How does Ian Mortimer inform readers about Elizabethan England?

Lesson Goals
Read from The Time Traveler’s Guide to Elizabethan England by Ian Mortimer.

Identify explicit and implicit information.
Support inferences with evidence from the text.
Analyze the effects of point of view.

Words to Know
Write the letter of the definition next to the matching word as you work through the lesson. You may use the glossary to help you.

D implicit
A. clearly and directly stated or developed

C point of view
B. a conclusion drawn from background knowledge and text details

B inference
C. the position from which a text is narrated

A explicit
D. understood but not directly stated
The Elizabethan Era

The Elizabethan era was an important time in English history.

• The time period is named for Queen Elizabeth, who ruled England from 1558 to 1603.

• This era was known as the “Golden Age” because there were many great achievements in exploration, trade, literature, and music.

• Out of this era comes William Shakespeare, a playwright whose work is still performed around the world and read in English classes today.
Part 1: An Introduction to Elizabethan England

Gaining Information from a Text

Information in a text may be stated explicitly, or it may be revealed implicitly.

- **Explicit** information is **directly** stated.

- **Implicit** information requires the reader to combine details from the text with background knowledge to make an **inference**.

Explicit Information

**EXAMPLE**

*Underline the explicit details in the passage.*

As* ked to describe their county, most Devonians will mention the *great city of Exeter, the ports of Dartmouth, Plymouth, and Barnstaple, and the dozens of market towns. They will generally neglect to mention that the region is dominated by a great moor, Dartmoor, two thousand feet high in places and over two hundred square miles in expanse. There are no roads across this wasteland, only track ways. Elizabethans see it as good for nothing but pasture, tin mining, and the steady water supply it provides by way of the rivers that rise there.*

—The Time Traveler’s Guide to Elizabethan England,
*Ian Mortimer*
Implicit Information

EXAMPLE

*Underline the text in the passage that can be used to make inferences about the implicit details.*

As asked to describe their county, most Devonians will mention the great city of Exeter, the ports of Dartmouth, Plymouth, and Barnstaple, and the dozens of market towns. They will generally neglect to mention that the region is dominated by a great moor, Dartmoor, two thousand feet high in places and over two hundred square miles in expanse. There are no roads across this wasteland, only track ways. Elizabethans see it as good for nothing but pasture, tin mining, and the steady water supply it provides by way of the rivers that rise there.

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  Ian Mortimer
Part 1: An Introduction to Elizabethan England

Reviewing Point of View

Point of view is the position from which a text is narrated.

First person
- Uses personal pronouns, including “I” and “we”
- Shares the thoughts and ideas of one person who acts as a narrator

Second person
- Uses the personal pronoun you
- Speaks directly to the reader as though the reader were in the text

Third person
- Uses the personal pronouns “he,” “she,” and “they”
- Presents information as though observing from the outside

Analyzing the Effects of Multiple Points of View

STRATEGY

To analyze the effects of point of view:

1. Identify the point of view.
2. Think about the purpose of the information presented.
3. Consider how the point of view helps achieve the purpose of the information.
Indeed, it is only at the very end of the Elizabethan period, in the late 1590s, that people start to use the term “landscape” to describe a view. Before this, they do not need such a word, for they do not see a “landscape” as such—only the constituent elements that mean something to them: the woods, fields, rivers, orchards, gardens, bridges, roads, and, above all else, the towns. Shakespeare does not use the word “landscape” at all; he uses the word “country”—a concept in which people and physical things are intimately bound together. Therefore, when you describe the Elizabethan landscape as it appears to you, you are not necessarily describing the “country” as Elizabethan people see it. Every act of seeing is unique—and that is as true for an Elizabethan farmer looking at his growing corn as it is for you now, traveling back to the sixteenth century.

—The Time Traveler’s Guide to Elizabethan England, Ian Mortimer
Effects of Second-Person Point of View on Readers

A reader's experience of second-person point of view is informed by their background.

- **Ethnicity**: A person of color may think differently about living in Elizabethan times than a White reader would.

- **Religion**: Readers may imagine themselves differently in Elizabethan society based on their religion.

- **Experiences**: Readers have different past experiences and may consider life in Elizabethan England differently.
Summary Part 1: An Introduction to Elizabethan England

Lesson Question

How does Ian Mortimer inform readers about Elizabethan England?

Answer

(Sample answer) Mortimer reveals information both explicitly and implicitly. He transports the reader to Elizabethan England by using the second-person point of view.

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.