MAKING INFERENCES:

Read the story “A Jury of her Peers” carefully. Write the answers at home and bring them to class.

Part 1 (pages 70-73): What kind of register does the author use in the story? How is the story written? Often, a writer will use dialog that suggests, rather than states directly, how a character feels. This kind of suggestion is called implication, or implied meaning. The following sentences from Part II are examples of implied meaning. The questions that follow ask you to tell what the words of each speaker imply. Paragraph numbers are given to help you find the dialog in the story.

1. “Nothing here but the kitchen things,” said the sheriff with a laugh. (paragraph 37) What is implied here by the sheriff’s laugh? What does he think about the value of “kitchen things”?

2. “Well, how about that for a woman! Held in jail for murder, and worrying about her jars of fruit!” (paragraph 41) What does the sheriff imply about the woman’s interest in her jar of fruit? What does he imply about women generally?

3. “Oh, well,” Mr. Hale said, “women are used to worrying about nothing.” (paragraph 43) What does Mr. Hale imply about the seriousness of women’s concerns generally?

4. “And yet,” said the attorney, “what would we do without the ladies?” (paragraph 44) The attorney seems to be saying that “the ladies” are valuable to “us.” But he implies something different. What is it? Read the rest of paragraph 44. What do Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters imply by the way they react to the attorney’s words?

5. “There’s a lot of work to do around a farm,” Mrs. Hale said sharply. “And men’s hands aren’t always as clean as they might be.” (paragraph 47) What does Mrs. Hale imply here about the habits of men on a farm?
Part 2. (pages 73-78) : In groups, answer the following questions:

1. What are the clues that lead Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters to an understanding of what Mrs. Wright did, and why she did it?
2. With a partner, reread Part III and find specific clues that the two women discovered. There are at least four important ones, as well as some smaller ones. Be prepared to describe the clues and tell why they are important.

WRITING SECTION:

Part 3: Write your own sentence showing the meaning of the word in parentheses.

1. (county) __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. (attorney) _______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. (clue) __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

4. (murder) _________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

5. (motive) ________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Part 4: Writing a Dialog

“A Jury of Her Peers” is told almost completely in dialog – there is very little description. Write a page of dialog: a conversation among Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Wright. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters visit Mrs. Wright in the county jail. They bring her the things she has asked for. What do they talk about?