The Boy in the Water: Observations vs Inferences

Observations – information gathered with the senses, what you actually see, smell, taste, hear, feel; can be qualitative observations or quantitative observations

Inference – using prior knowledge + observations to draw a conclusion; EXPLAINING what is observed; not always correct

Place an ‘I’ before the statements that are inferences, and an ‘O’ before the statements that are observations.

__ 1. The boy is in the water.
__ 2. The weather is cold.
__ 3. The tree branch is broken.
__ 4. If the boy crawled out of the water the goat would butt him.
__ 5. The boy fell off the branch.
__ 6. A goat is standing by the pond.
__ 7. The branch will fall on the boy’s head.
__ 8. The boy fell off the rocks.
__ 9. There is a sailboat in the water.
__ 10. The sailboat belongs to the boy.
__ 11. The goat will soon leave the pond.
__ 12. The tree by the pond has no leaves on it.
__ 13. There are three rocks in the pond.
__ 14. The tree by the pond is dead.
__ 15. If it rains leaves will grow on the tree.
__ 16. The goat butted the boy into the pond.