

Reading Skill

DRAW CONCLUSIONS

The realism of *A Journal of the Plague Year* established it as one of the most shocking literary works of its day. Written nearly 300 years ago, the novel still elicits mixed responses of horror and sympathy from its readers. As you read the selection, use your own personal reactions and text clues to help you **make inferences**, or logical guesses, about the plague and London society.

Directions: In the chart, record your reactions and inferences to passages about London society. Later, you will use these notes to **draw conclusions**, or make general statements about this tragedy. An example has been done for you.

Passages About London Society	My Reactions	My Inferences
“As near as I may judge, [the burial pit], was about forty feet in length, and about fifteen or sixteen broad, and . . . about nine feet deep.”	The burial pit was so large. What a terrible sight it must have been!	The plague caused Londoners to change their burial practices. Mass graves were created.