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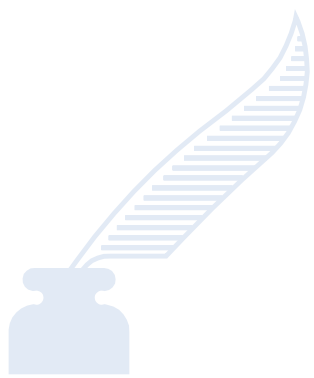
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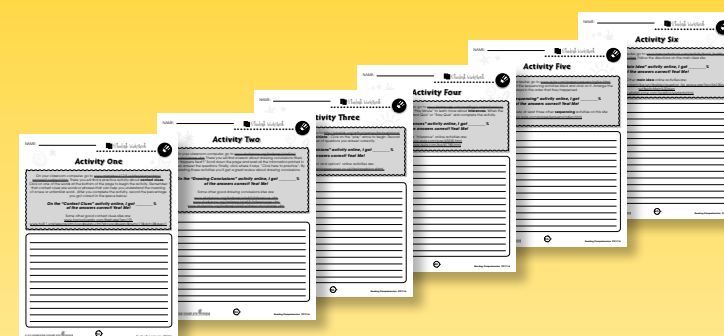
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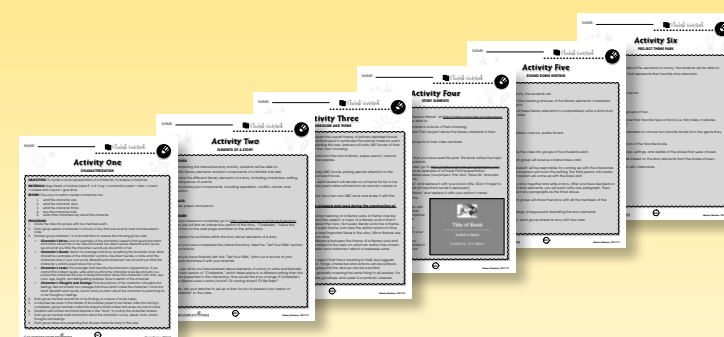
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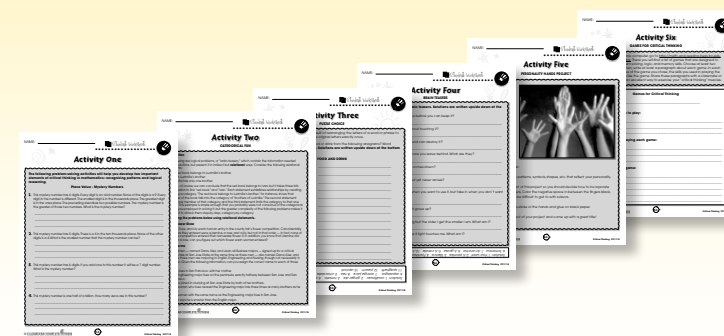
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Main Idea

1. Complete each sentence with the correct term.

reading comprehension main idea purpose for reading
reading comprehension skills

- a) The reason you read a text is the _____.
- b) The _____ refers to what is most important in a paragraph or story.
- c) The ability to read and understand the meaning of a text is called _____.
- d) Choosing the main idea, sequencing, recognizing inferences and conclusions, and using context clues are all _____.

2. Read each paragraph and put an X in front of the main idea of each one.

- i) Chris loves to watch movies. When he is alone, he watches adventure movies because he likes the action in them. His favorite adventure movie of all time is "Star Wars". Sometimes, his younger sister goes to the movie theater with him. When she is along, Chris likes to watch comedies because they make her laugh.
- a) Chris does not like scary movies. c) Chris doesn't want his sister to tag along with him.
- b) Chris really enjoys watching movies. d) Chris only likes adventure movies.
- ii) Abraham Lincoln only went to school for about eighteen months during his childhood. But young Abe loved to learn new things. He walked several miles to borrow books from a friend. Then he taught himself to read them by the light of the fire at night. He studied how things were made. He memorized poetry and recited it to his family. Learning was fun for Abraham.
- a) Abraham Lincoln easily remembered things. c) Abraham Lincoln wanted to learn as much as he could.
- b) Abe liked to walk for miles and miles. d) Abe wasn't a very good reader.



Main Idea

There are many skills you can use to improve your **reading comprehension** (the ability to read and understand the meaning of a text). One of these skills is **finding the main idea**. The main idea of a reading selection is **its most important part**. The main idea is also what the author wants you to understand or remember about the selection. Other reading comprehension skills include: sequencing, recognizing inferences and conclusions, and using context clues.

Sometimes the main idea is plainly stated in one or more sentences in the selection. At other times, you will have put all the **details** about the topic together and decide what the author wants you to understand about the text. **Details** are pieces of information that tell about the main idea. Details explain the main idea, telling who, what, when, where, why, or how. Details can describe a person, place, or thing. Details can tell the order in which events happen. And details can explain how to do something. There are several ways to find the main idea of a reading selection.



The Reading Watch Dog says, "Keys to Finding the Main Idea"

1. The first step in finding the main idea of a text is to **read the title**. Titles very often include important words that will give you clues to the main idea.
2. Sometimes the main idea is stated in the **first** or **last sentence of a paragraph**.
3. If the main idea is not clearly stated, pay special attention to the details. By reading them, you should be able to decide what the author thinks is most important about the text.
4. Look for a word or words that are repeated several times. They are clues to the main idea of the text.
5. Pay attention to pictures, captions under the pictures, words in dark print, or words and phrases in italics.

Knowing how to find the main idea of a written text or a speech or story will be very helpful to you in the future. All reading tests will ask you questions about finding the main ideas of stories or reports. And listening for the main idea of a speaker's presentation will help you remember its most important idea and the supporting details.



Main Idea

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions by placing a check mark (✓) beside each correct choice.

1. Dolphins are amazing animals. They are mammals, not fish. They are warm-blooded like humans. They also give birth to live babies like humans do. They like to be together. They swim in large groups called pods. Dolphins also feed and protect their young like humans. In dolphins, we can see many of our own traits.
- The main idea of this story is:*
- A Dolphins live in the ocean
- B All people like to study dolphins.
- C Dolphins have many human characteristics.
2. If you asked her, J.K. Rowling might say that trains are her lucky charms. Her parents met for the first time on a train. Also, she remembers taking many fun train trips during her childhood. Perhaps the most important reason the famous author considers trains to be good luck is easy to see. She planned the plots of the seven *Harry Potter* books while she was riding a train to London, England.
- The main idea of this story is:*
- A J.K. Rowling believes that trains are her good luck symbol.
- B Writing the *Harry Potter* books was very hard work.
- C J. K. Rowling had a very happy childhood.
3. The United States is filled with amazing places to visit. The Grand Canyon National Park has beautiful views, hot springs, and wildlife. Hawaii, our 50th state has an active volcano, thick, green forests, and the blue Pacific Ocean. Niagara Falls in New York is the second largest falls in the world. It carries millions of gallons of water from the Niagara River over the edge of the falls each day. There are thousands of other wonderful places to visit in the United States.
- The main idea of this story is:*
- A Niagara Falls is very large.
- B The United States is made up of many beautiful and exciting places.
- C Hawaii is our 50th state.



Using Graphic Organizers to Identify Main Ideas

1. Read the following selection. Then pick out the main idea and supporting details. Use them to complete the graphic organizer below.

Florida manatees are the elephant's cousins. But there are some huge differences between them. Like the elephant, manatees are mammals. They live in the water near the coast of Florida, not on land like elephants. They do have grayish skin like an elephant. Their front flippers help them steer in the water. Their tails are big and strong instead of small and weak like the elephant's. Unlike the very large ears of an elephant, the manatee has no outer ears at all! Elephants and manatees may be cousins, but they are not very much alike.

Main Idea Chart

MAIN IDEA		
Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail



(Setting - A Childhood Place or Event) Think of an important place or event from your childhood. On another sheet of paper, write a fictionalized children's story about a child who goes to this place or this event for someone about the same age that you were when the place or event occurred. Because you're writing a fictionalized record of the place or event, your details don't have to conform to actual truth. You can weave two or three (or more) memories about the place together in one story. You can make up things about the place that you're not sure of or that you wish had occurred. Your story should show how you thought and felt about the place or event as a child. Your reader has never been to the place you are describing, so you will need to use specific, concrete details which make the place vivid and your perspectives clear.



(Plot) Remember that the plot of a story refers to what happens and how it happens in a narrative. Sometimes, a photo can make you wonder what happened and how it happened. Look at the photo below and then write a short story about the characters pictured in it.



Jessica Wanstall, an 11-year-old girl standing 4'10," caught a record-size catfish. Photo: BNPS Pictures <http://www.parentdish.com/category/weird-but-true>



Crossword

Word List
 action
 Aesops
 character
 climax
 elements
 falling
 flashback
 graphic
 introduction
 irony
 plot
 setting
 situation
 view



Across

- A person in a story.
- Point of _____.
- The time and location of a story.
- Plan of action for a story.
- _____ action.
- The first stage of plot development.
- _____ organizer.
- _____ fables.

Down

- Rising _____.
- Literary _____.
- The "high point" of a story.
- _____ irony.
- Refers back to an event that has already happened.
- An expression in which the meaning of the words are the opposite of their usual meaning.

Comprehension Quiz

35

Put a "T" in front of each true statement and put an "F" in front of each false statement.

- Critical thinking is what happens when you judge, decide, or solve a problem.
- Values are not important to a good critical thinker.
- Learning to think for yourself is important to being successful in life.
- Most critical thinkers do not like to explore new ideas.
- Reason is logical thinking.
- Critical thinkers are dependent thinkers.
- A good independent critical thinker is also a good listener.
- Honesty is not very important to good critical thinkers.
- An independent thinker knows it's better to make mistakes than to accept someone else's opinions about everything in life.
- Organized means "orderly and effective."

10

Write the answers to the following questions.

- What is an inference? 1
- What is the difference between a fact and an opinion? Give an example of a fact and an example of an opinion. 4
- What does the following statement mean? "A good critical thinker anticipates consequences." 2
- What are three organization tips that good critical thinkers can use? 3

SUBTOTAL: /20

Class Decision Chart

Decision to be made:

Qualities

Possible Solutions

Score

Decision to be made:	Qualities	Possible Solutions	Score
		1.	
		2.	
		3.	
		4.	
		5.	
		6.	
		7.	
		8.	

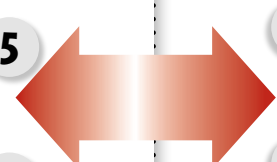
Final decision:



Keys to Asking Questions (Part Two)

1. Match the meaning on the right with its term on the left.

A	conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	a method that investigates arguments.	1
B	relevance	<input type="checkbox"/>	how facts are related to a question.	2
C	significance	<input type="checkbox"/>	judge the facts and to decide which ones are important.	3
D	evaluate	<input type="checkbox"/>	a statement that sums up all of the information collected in order to make a point or a decision.	4
E	logic	<input type="checkbox"/>	unacceptable.	5
F	invalid	<input type="checkbox"/>	how important the facts are to the question.	6



- 1.**
- A 4**
- B 2**
- C 6**
- D 3**
- E 1**
- F 5**

1.

Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.

- 1.**
- a)** Problems are "states of difficulty that need to be settled or questions that need to be answered." Problem solving is finding the answers to the problems.
- b)** Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.
- c)** The man.
- d)** Mt. Everest — it just had not been discovered yet.
- e)** Jimmy, of course!

1.

Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.

EASY MARKING

2. Number the steps in the Critical Questioning Process from 1 to 4 in the correct order.

- a)** "Drawing a Conclusion Using Logic."
- b)** "Getting the Facts."
- c)** "Evaluating a Conclusion."
- d)** "Evaluating the Facts."

ANSWER KEY

- 2.**
- a)** 3
- b)** 1
- c)** 4
- d)** 2

2.

Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.

- 2.**
- a)** True
- b)** False
- c)** False
- d)** True

2.

Answers may vary. Accept any reasonable response.