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## Table of Contents

Lesson 1:	Warm-Up: Introduction to Strategy .....	2
Lesson 2:	Active Reading: Selecting a Paragraph’s Topic.....	4
Lesson 3:	Active Reading: Determining a Paragraph’s Topic and Important Details.....	6
Lesson 4:	Active Reading: Reciting the Topic and Important Details .....	8
Lesson 5:	Active Reading: Using the Strategy .....	11
Lesson 6:	Active Reading: Applying the Strategy .....	14
Lesson 7:	Indentation Notes: Introduction .....	16
Lesson 8:	Indentation Notes: Structured Practice .....	20
Lesson 9:	Indentation Notes: Guided Practice .....	23
Lesson 10:	Indentation Notes: Generating Study Questions.....	25
Lesson 11:	Indentation Notes: Independent Practice .....	26
Lesson 12:	Mapping Written Material: Introduction.....	28
Lesson 13:	Mapping Written Material: Guided Practice.....	30
Lesson 14:	Mapping Written Material: Guided Practice.....	32
Lesson 15:	Mapping Written Material: Independent Practice.....	35
Lesson 16:	Summary Paragraphs: Introduction .....	37
Lesson 17:	Writing a Summary: Introduction .....	39
Lesson 18:	Writing a Summary: Guided Practice .....	42
Lesson 19:	Writing a Summary: Preparation .....	44
Lesson 20:	Writing a Summary: Independent Practice .....	45

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# Lesson 2

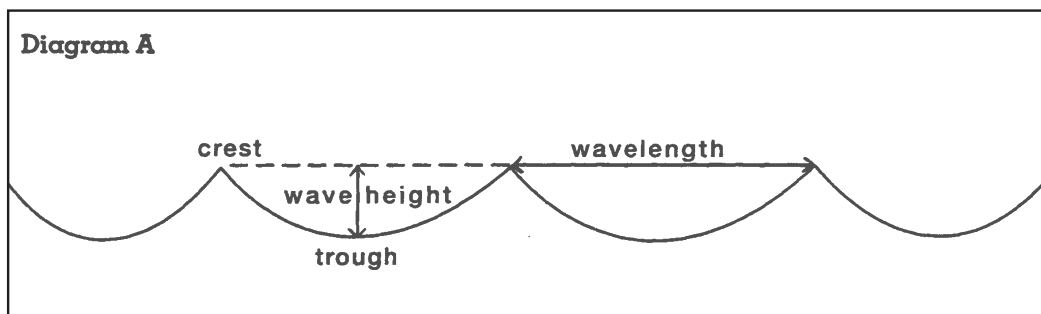
## Active Reading Selecting a Paragraph's Topic

- A. A **topic** is a word or phrase that tells what the *whole paragraph* is about. A topic should be specific.
- B. Example paragraphs

### Waves

1. You have probably observed waves at the beach or perhaps even caused waves by throwing a rock into a body of water. All waves have a number of parts regardless of their size. The highest part of a wave is called the *crest*. The lowest part of a wave is called the *trough* (trof). (See diagram A.)

This paragraph talks about \_\_\_\_\_.



2. The size of waves can be measured in two different ways. The distance from the crest of one wave to the crest of the next is called the *wavelength*. Wavelength varies greatly. In the ocean, wavelengths vary from 65 to 6,500 meters. The distance between the crest of a wave and the trough is called the *wave height*. Wave height also varies a great deal.

This paragraph talks about \_\_\_\_\_.

3. There are several causes of ocean waves. Most waves are caused by the wind. However, some waves are caused by the gravitational attraction of the moon and sun or by an earthquake.

This paragraph talks about \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Wind is the major cause of ocean waves. When the wind begins to blow, small ripples form on the calm water. As the wind blows faster, the waves become larger. The waves also become larger if the wind blows for a long time and over a long distance.

This paragraph talks about \_\_\_\_\_.