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# Strategy One FINDING MAIN IDEA

## PART ONE: Think About Number Sense

### WHAT IS THE MAIN IDEA?

Stories and books all have a main idea. Movies and TV shows also have a main idea. The main idea is the most important idea. It tells what something is mostly about.

★ Write the name of your favourite book.

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★ Write one thing that happens in the book.

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★ Write what the book is mostly about.

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You just wrote about the main idea!



Tell your partner about a TV show you have watched. Take turns telling each other what the TV show was mostly about.



## HOW DO YOU FIND THE MAIN IDEA?

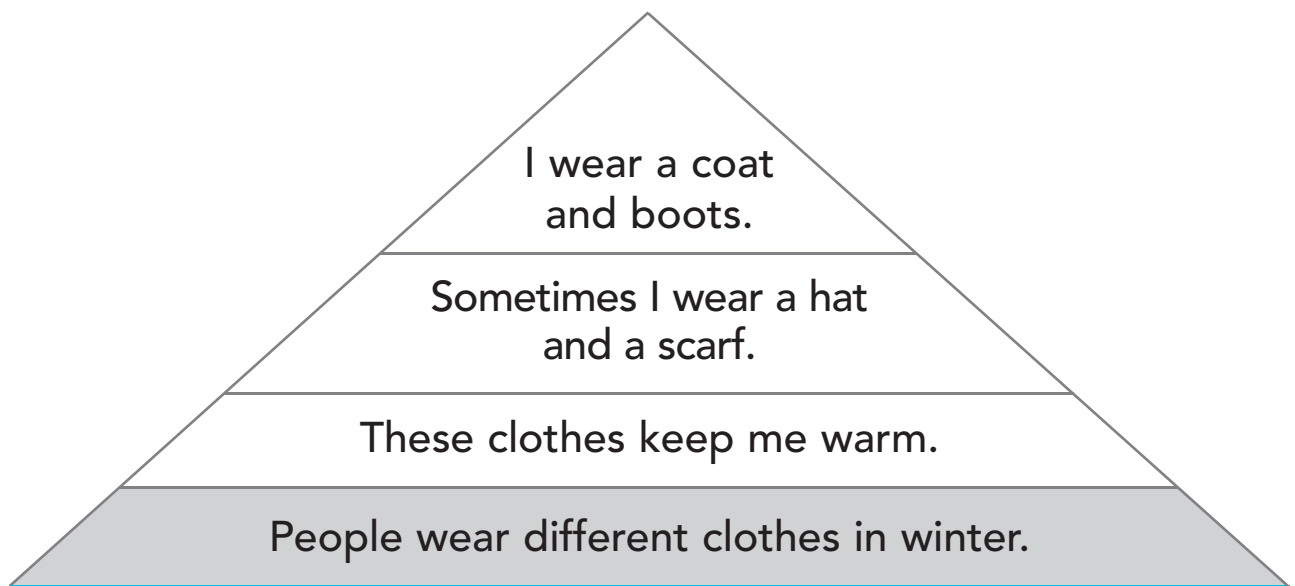
You can find the main idea of most stories in the first sentence or last sentence. Read the story below.

People wear different clothes in winter. I wear a coat and boots. Sometimes I wear a hat and a scarf. These clothes keep me warm.

Think about the most important idea in the story.

Let's find the main idea.

Look at the triangle below. The sentences at the top tell about the main idea. But they do not tell the most important idea.



The sentence at the bottom of the triangle is the most important idea. This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.

The main idea is found in the first sentence of the story.

You just found the main idea!

Read this story about Meg. As you read, think about the main idea of the story. Then answer the questions.

Today is the first day of school. Meg has been waiting for this day. She can't wait to begin year one. But Meg cannot go to school today. She cannot meet her new teacher. She cannot be with all her friends. Meg is sick with the flu.



1. What is the main idea of the story?
  - Ⓐ Meg cannot meet her teacher.
  - Ⓑ Meg is sick with the flu.
  - Ⓒ Today is the first day of school.
2. Where did you find the main idea?
  - Ⓐ in the first sentence
  - Ⓑ in the second sentence
  - Ⓒ in the last sentence



Talk about your answers to questions 1 and 2. Tell why you chose the answers you did.

Look at the answer choices for each question.

Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

3. What is the story mostly about?

- Ⓐ Many cats have stripes or patches.

*This answer is not correct.*

*This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that have stripes or patches.*

- Cats come in many shapes and sizes.

*This answer is correct. The story is mostly about different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.*

- Ⓒ Some cats cannot hear.

*This answer is not correct.*

*This answer tells about only one idea from the story. The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear.*

4. Where did you find the main idea?

- in the first sentence

*This answer is correct. The first sentence of the story says that ‘Cats come in many shapes and sizes’. This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.*

- Ⓑ in the second sentence

*This answer is not correct.*

*The main idea is in the first sentence of this story. The second sentence says that ‘Some cats are wildcats’. This is just one idea in the story. The story is not mostly about wildcats.*

- Ⓒ in the last sentence

*This answer is not correct.*

*The last sentence of the story says that ‘These cats often cannot hear’. The story is not mostly about cats that cannot hear. The story is mostly about different kinds of cats. Cats come in many shapes and sizes.*

<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>1. The story is mostly about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ a girl who helps her dad.</li> <li>Ⓑ a turtle that needs help.</li> <li>Ⓒ a dad that sees something on the road.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>4. Who saw the turtle first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Lu</li> <li>Ⓑ Chen</li> <li>Ⓒ Dad</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>2. Where or how did you find the main idea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ in the first sentence</li> <li>Ⓑ in the last sentence</li> <li>Ⓒ by thinking about the most important idea in the story</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>5. Chen thought the turtle looked like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ a ball.</li> <li>Ⓑ seaweed.</li> <li>Ⓒ a towel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>3. What is also a good name for the story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ ‘Lu’s Big Surprise’</li> <li>Ⓑ ‘Dad Saves the Day’</li> <li>Ⓒ ‘How to Help a Turtle’</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>6. The turtle finally walked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ across the road.</li> <li>Ⓑ into the car.</li> <li>Ⓒ into the water.</li> </ul>