

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|                              |   |            |
|------------------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Strategy One</b>          | Finding Main Idea .....                           | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>Strategy Two</b>          | Recalling Facts and Details .....                 | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Three</b>        | Understanding Sequence.....                       | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>Strategies One-Three</b>  | REVIEW.....                                       | <b>34</b>  |
| <hr/>                        |   |            |
| <b>Strategy Four</b>         | Recognising Cause and Effect.....                 | <b>38</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Five</b>         | Comparing and Contrasting .....                   | <b>48</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Six</b>          | Making Predictions .....                          | <b>58</b>  |
| <b>Strategies Four-Six</b>   | REVIEW.....                                       | <b>68</b>  |
| <hr/>                        |   |            |
| <b>Strategy Seven</b>        | Finding Word Meaning in Context.....              | <b>72</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Eight</b>        | Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences.....    | <b>82</b>  |
| <b>Strategy Nine</b>         | Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion.....      | <b>92</b>  |
| <b>Strategies Seven-Nine</b> | REVIEW.....                                       | <b>102</b> |
| <hr/>                        |   |            |
| <b>Strategy Ten</b>          | Identifying Author's Purpose.....                 | <b>106</b> |
| <b>Strategy Eleven</b>       | Interpreting Figurative Language.....             | <b>116</b> |
| <b>Strategy Twelve</b>       | Distinguishing Between Real and Make-believe..... | <b>126</b> |
| <b>Strategies Ten-Twelve</b> | REVIEW.....                                       | <b>136</b> |
| <b>Strategies One-Twelve</b> | FINAL REVIEW .....                                | <b>140</b> |

# Strategy One FINDING MAIN IDEA

## PART ONE: Think About Main Idea

### WHAT IS MAIN IDEA?

Stories and books all have a main idea. A movie or TV show also has a main idea. The main idea is the most important idea. It tells what something is mostly about.

★ Write the name of your favourite movie.

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★ Write two things that happen in the movie.

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★ Write what the movie is mostly about.

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You just wrote about main idea!



Tell your partner about a book you have read. Take turns telling each other what the book is mostly about.



## HOW DO YOU FIND THE MAIN IDEA?

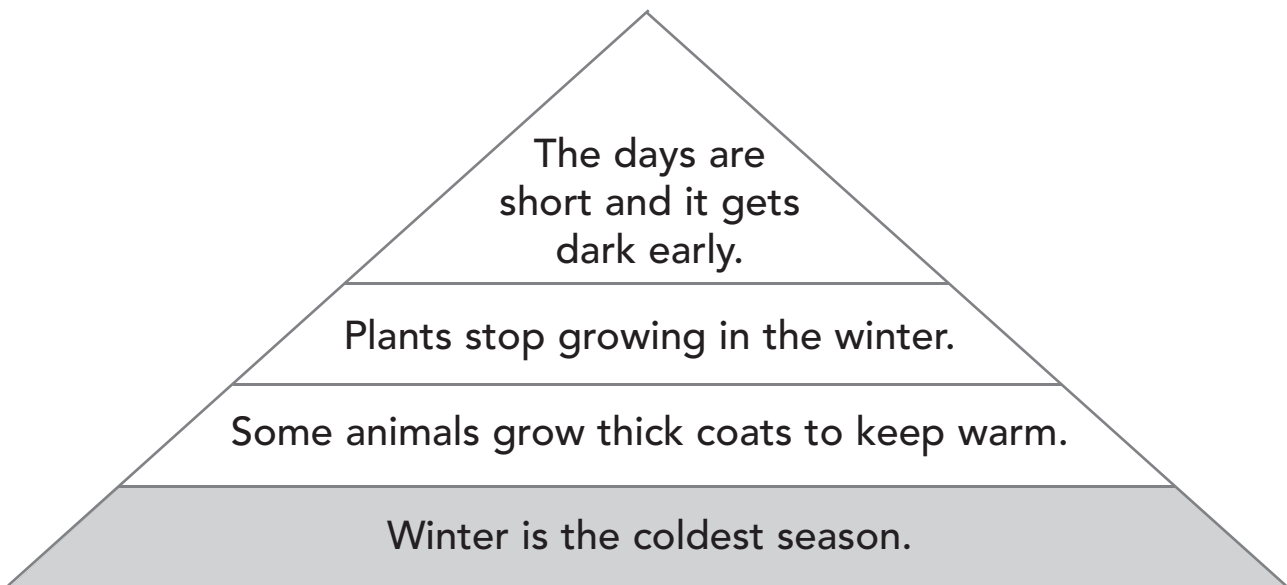
You can find the main idea of most stories in the first or last sentence. Read the story below.

Winter is the coldest season. The days are short and it gets dark early. Plants stop growing in the winter. Some animals grow thick coats to keep warm.

Think about the most important idea in the story.

Let's find the main idea.

Look at the triangle below. The first three sentences 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!

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?

Ⓐ A baby cat is called a kitten.

*This answer is not correct.*

*The story is not mostly about a baby cat.*

Ⓑ A foal can walk the day it is born!

*This answer is not correct. The story is not mostly about a foal.*

● There are lots of different names for baby animals.

*This answer is correct. The story is mostly about the different names for baby animals.*

Ⓓ A joey is about the size of a bumblebee when it is first born.

*This answer is not correct. The story is not mostly about a joey.*

4. Where or how did you find the main idea?

Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story  
*This answer is not correct. The first sentence of the story says that 'A baby cat is called a kitten'.*

*This is not what the story is mostly about.*

● in the last sentence of the story  
*This answer is correct. The last sentence of the story says that 'There are lots of different names for baby animals'. This sentence tells what the story is mostly about.*

Ⓒ in the middle of the story  
*This answer is not correct. The sentences in the middle of the story tell about baby kangaroos and baby horses. They are not what the story is mostly about.*

Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about  
*This answer is not correct. The main idea is found in the last sentence of the story.*

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| <p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>1. The main idea of the tall tale is found</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ in the first sentence.</li> <li>Ⓑ in the last sentence.</li> <li>Ⓒ in the middle of the tall tale.</li> <li>Ⓓ by thinking about what the tall tale is mostly about.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>4. Paul spent most of his time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ eating.</li> <li>Ⓑ sleeping.</li> <li>Ⓒ playing.</li> <li>Ⓓ crawling.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>2. What is the tall tale mostly about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ a clever idea</li> <li>Ⓑ a baby who lives in a barn</li> <li>Ⓒ a baby who keeps growing</li> <li>Ⓓ a mother and father who have many problems</li> </ul>                           | <p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>5. Which of these happened first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Mr Bunyan made a nursery in the barn.</li> <li>Ⓑ Paul grew bigger than his father.</li> <li>Ⓒ Paul’s cradle was pulled into the ocean.</li> <li>Ⓓ Mrs Bunyan told her husband to hire a team of horses.</li> </ul>            |
| <p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>3. What did Paul’s father build every two days?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ a barn</li> <li>Ⓑ a cradle</li> <li>Ⓒ a nursery</li> <li>Ⓓ a house</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>6. You can tell the order of things that happened in the tall tale by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ looking for clue words.</li> <li>Ⓑ thinking about the main idea.</li> <li>Ⓒ finding the facts and details.</li> <li>Ⓓ thinking about the beginning, the middle and the ending.</li> </ul> |