

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Strategy One FINDING MAIN IDEA

PART ONE: Think About Main Idea

WHAT IS MAIN IDEA?

Books, short stories and poems all tell a story. All stories have a main idea. A movie or television show tells a story that has a main idea. The main idea tells what something is mostly about.

★ Write the name of a movie you enjoyed watching.

★ Write three important things that happened in the movie.

★ Write a sentence that tells what the movie was mostly about.

You just wrote about main idea!



Tell your partner about a book or newspaper article you have read. Take turns telling about the main idea of the book or article. Tell your main idea in one sentence.



HOW DO YOU FIND THE MAIN IDEA?

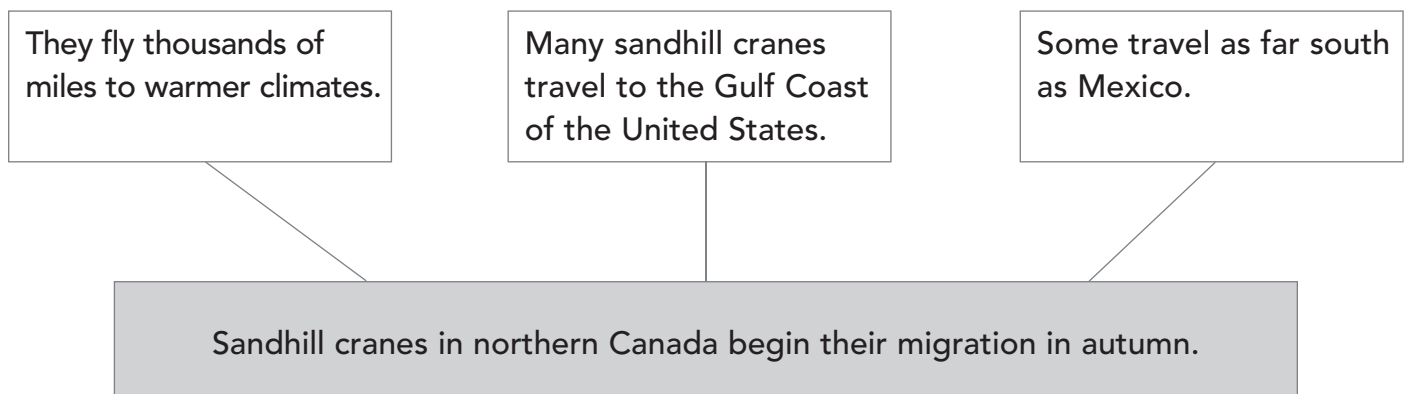
You can find the main idea of most reading passages in the first or last sentence of the passage. Read the passage below.

Sandhill cranes in northern Canada begin their migration in autumn. They fly thousands of miles to warmer climates. Many sandhill cranes travel to the Gulf Coast of the United States. Some travel as far south as Mexico.

Think about the most important idea in the passage.

Let's find the main idea.

Look at the web below. The sentences in the small rectangles tell about the main idea, but they do not tell the most important idea in the passage.



The sentence in the large rectangle is the most important idea. This sentence tells what the passage is mostly about. The main idea is found in the first sentence of the passage.

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 fable mostly about?

- Ⓐ a prophet who worries too much

This answer is not correct because there is not enough information in the fable to support this idea. The prophet was upset when he heard that he had been robbed. However, his reaction is typical of someone who has been robbed. This does not mean that the prophet worries too much.

- Ⓑ a busy marketplace

This answer is not correct because the marketplace, the fable's setting, is only one detail in the fable. It is not the most important idea.

- Ⓒ a prophet who has been robbed

This answer is not correct because this is only one idea in the fable, not the most important idea.

- a prophet who cannot predict his own future

This answer is correct because it tells what all the sentences in the fable are mostly about. It is the most important idea.

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

- Ⓐ in the first sentence of the paragraph

This answer is not correct because the first sentence tells where the prophet was and what he was doing. This is not the most important idea in the paragraph.

- in the last sentence of the paragraph

This answer is correct because the last sentence states that the prophet is not clever enough to see what's in store for himself. This is the most important idea of the fable.

- Ⓒ in the middle of the paragraph

This answer is not correct because the middle of the paragraph tells about the robbery at the prophet's house and his reaction to the theft.

- Ⓓ by thinking about the most important idea in the paragraph

This answer is not correct because the main idea is found in the last sentence.

<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>1. What is the article mostly about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ the rule of Su Ting Ⓑ the Trung sisters' fight for Vietnam's freedom Ⓒ the mystery of the Trung sisters' death Ⓓ cruel Chinese rulers 	<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>4. Who led the Vietnamese in a successful revolt against the Chinese?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Trung Nhi Ⓑ Thi Sach Ⓒ Ngo Quyen Ⓓ Ma Yuon
<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>2. What is the best title for this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ 'The Legend of the Trung Sisters' Ⓑ 'General Ma Yuan' Ⓒ 'The Death of Thi Sach' Ⓓ 'Queen Trung Trac' 	<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>5. Which of these happened last?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ The Trung sisters raised an army. Ⓑ The Vietnamese drove out Su Ting. Ⓒ Su Ting took control of Vietnam. Ⓓ Thi Sach stirred up trouble.
<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>3. Su Ting ruled Vietnam from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ A.D. 39 to A.D. 40. Ⓑ A.D. 929 to A.D. 939. Ⓒ A.D. 29 to A.D. 39. Ⓓ A.D. 29 to A.D. 40. 	<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>6. After the Chinese defeated the Vietnamese army,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Su Ting regained control of Vietnam. Ⓑ Trung Trac ordered an immediate attack. Ⓒ Trung Trac retreated into the mountains. Ⓓ Trung Trac was declared queen.