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## What is *Strategies to Achieve Reading Success (STARS Series)*?

*STARS* is a prescriptive reading series that provides essential instruction in 12 reading strategies (8 reading strategies in Book 1), the same strategies that are assessed in the *CARS* diagnostic reading series. *STARS* provides students with precise instruction in and practice of the strategies they need to master in order to achieve reading success.

In *STARS, Book 2*, students receive step-by-step instruction in 12 reading strategies:

- finding main idea
- recalling facts and details
- understanding sequence
- recognising cause and effect
- comparing and contrasting
- making predictions
- finding word meaning in context
- drawing conclusions and making inferences
- distinguishing between fact and opinion
- identifying author's purpose
- interpreting figurative language
- distinguishing between real and make-believe

In *STARS, Book 2*, students read the following genres as part of the instruction:

- narrative
- science article
- biography
- advertisement
- fable
- folktale
- letter
- social studies article
- journal entry
- tall tale
- poem
- fairy tale
- historical fiction
- informational article
- fantasy
- movie review
- book review
- instructions

## What is in the book?

Each book contains

- 12 strategy lessons (8 strategy lessons in Book 1)  
Each eight-page lesson provides instruction in a specific reading strategy. Students read several passages and answer 16 selected-response questions that focus on the strategy.
- 4 review lessons  
A four-page review lesson follows every three strategy lessons. (A two-page review lesson follows every two lessons in Book 1.) Students read two longer passages and answer 12 selected-

response questions. (One passage and 8 questions in Book 1.)

- 1 final review  
The nine-page final review (four pages in Book 1) gives practice in the 12 reading strategies (8 in Book 1). Students read three longer passages (two in Book 1) and answer 36 selected-response questions (16 in Book 1).

## What is the organisation of the strategy lessons in *STARS, Book 2*?

Each strategy lesson teaches students a specific reading strategy. There are 16 selected-response questions in each strategy lesson. Each of the 12 lessons includes the following two-page sections:

- Part One: Learn about the Strategy  
This section introduces the strategy and presents the key characteristics of the strategy. Two selected-response questions are provided. Part One should be guided by the teacher.
- Part Two: Check your Understanding  
This section reviews the strategy and explains which answer choices are correct and why the other answer choices are incorrect. Two selected-response questions are provided. Part Two should be guided by the teacher.
- Part Three: Learn More about the Strategy  
This section presents additional information about the strategy, as well as further practice. Eight selected-response questions are provided.
- Part Four: Prepare for a Test  
This section provides students with information about the kinds of test questions that target the strategy. Four selected-response questions are provided. The name of the strategy appears above each question.



### **What is the organisation of the review lessons in *STARS, Book 2*?**

Each review lesson provides practice of the previous three reading strategies. There are two reading passages and 12 selected-response questions in each review lesson. Each of the four review lessons includes the following two-page sections:

- Part One: Practice with a longer reading passage followed by two selected-response questions for each of the three strategies reviewed (6 questions). The name of the strategy appears above each question.
- Part Two: Practice with another longer reading passage followed by two selected-response questions for each of the three strategies reviewed (6 questions). The name of the strategy appears above each question.

### **What is the organisation of the final review in *STARS, Book 2*?**

The final review provides practice of the 12 reading strategies. There are three reading passages and 36 selected-response questions in the final review. The final review follows the format of the *CARS* lessons and includes the following:

- Part One: Practice with a longer reading passage followed by 12 selected-response questions, one for each strategy. The name of the strategy appears above each question.
- Part Two: Practice with a second longer reading passage followed by 12 selected-response questions, one for each strategy. The name of the strategy appears above each question.
- Part Three: Practice with a third longer reading passage followed by 12 selected-response questions, one for each strategy. The name of the strategy appears above each question.

### **What is in the teacher guide?**

Each 16-page teacher guide contains

- suggestions and instructional guidelines for using *STARS* effectively in the classroom.
- a four-page reproducible entitled Know Your Strategies for use with students in the classroom.
- a reproducible Answer Form for students to record their answers.
- a completed Answer Form.
- an Answer Key.

### **Where do students record their answers?**

Students record their answers on the reproducible Answer Form on pages 127 and 128. Students may also record their answers directly in the student book.

### **What is the correction procedure?**

For best results, correct each strategy lesson orally with students immediately following its completion. Explain concepts that students may not fully understand. In Part One, have pairs of students discuss their answers and explain why they chose them. In Part Two, Part Three and Part Four, discuss with students why correct answer choices are correct and why the remaining choices are not correct.

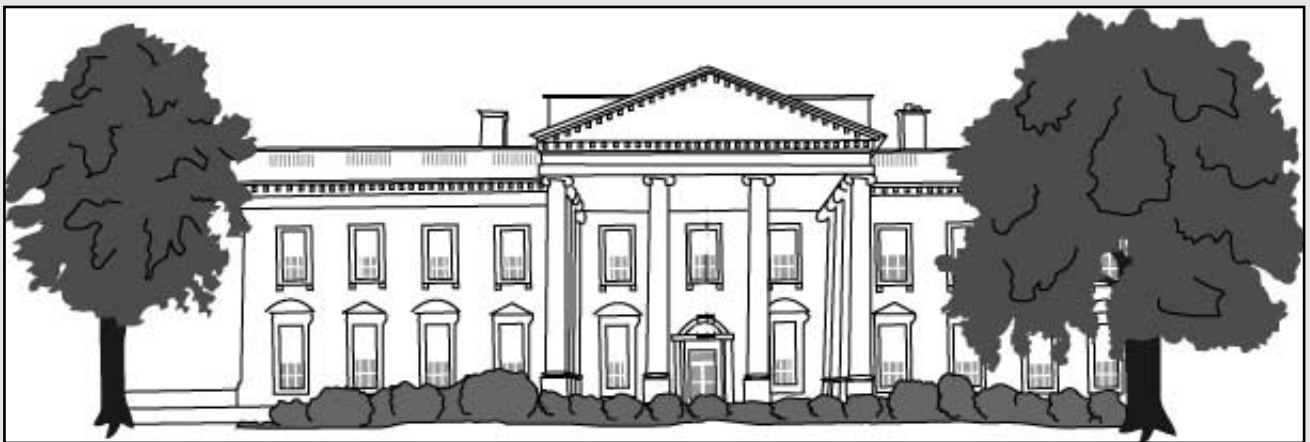
If possible, elicit from students their reasons for choosing an incorrect answer. Incorrect answer choices often indicate misunderstandings about the question. Discussing why choices are correct or incorrect (in the manner presented in Part Two of every strategy lesson) will help students verbalise and clarify how they approach a particular strategy.

For the review lessons and the final review, correct each lesson orally with students immediately following its completion. Explain concepts that students may not fully understand.

## PART ONE: LEARN ABOUT MAIN IDEA

Read Marta's story about Werribee Mansion. As you read, think about the most important idea in the story.

Werribee Mansion is a large home. The mansion has 60 rooms. There are many bedrooms and reception rooms. There is also a billiard room.

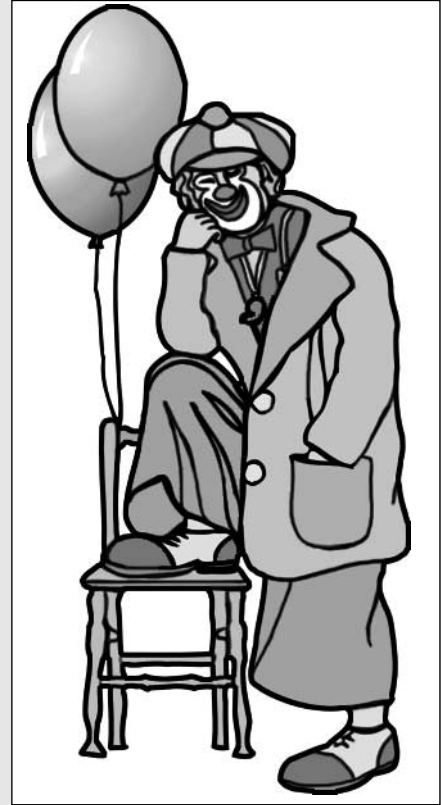


The most important idea in the story is **Werribee Mansion is a large home**. The most important idea in a story is called the **main idea**. The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the first sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes found in the last sentence of a story.
- ★ The main idea is sometimes not found in the story. You can figure out the main idea by thinking about what the story is mostly about. Ask yourself, “What is the story telling me?”

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

Pete loves to go to the circus. Some people like to watch the elephants. Others like to watch the lion tamers. But not Pete. Pete likes to watch the clowns. The clowns act silly and make him laugh. Pete can't wait for the next circus to come to his town.



1. What is the main idea of the story?
  - Ⓐ Some people like to watch the elephants.
  - Ⓑ Others like to watch the lion tamers.
  - Ⓒ Pete loves to go to the circus.
  - Ⓓ Pete can't wait for the next circus to come to his town.
2. Where or how did you find the main idea?
  - Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story
  - Ⓑ in the last sentence of the story
  - Ⓒ in the middle of the story
  - Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about

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

**Remember:** The main idea tells what a story is mostly or mainly about.

- ★ Read the first sentence of the story. The main idea is sometimes found here.
- ★ Read the last sentence of the story. The main idea is sometimes found here.
- ★ Sometimes, the main idea is not found in a sentence from the story. Think about what the story is mostly about. This will help you figure out the main idea.

**Read this story about baby animals. As you read, ask yourself, “What is the story mostly about?” Then answer the questions.**

A baby cat is called a kitten. Kittens love to play. A baby kangaroo is called a joey. A joey is about the size of a bumblebee when it is born. A baby horse is called a foal. A foal can walk the day it is born! Some people call a small child a kid. Did you know that this is also the name for a baby goat? There are lots of different names for baby animals.



3. What is the story mostly about?
  - Ⓐ A baby cat is called a kitten.
  - Ⓑ A foal can walk the day it is born!
  - Ⓒ There are lots of different names for baby animals.
  - Ⓓ A joey is about the size of a bumblebee.
4. Where or how did you find the main idea?
  - Ⓐ in the first sentence of the story
  - Ⓑ in the last sentence of the story
  - Ⓒ in the middle of the story
  - Ⓓ by thinking about what the story is mostly about