



ELA Virtual Learning

6-8/Essential Literacy

April 13, 2020



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Lesson: April 13, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can identify the main idea of a passage of text.



Warm-Up

On your notebook paper:

1. Write down a favorite title of a novel, movie or tv program.
2. If you were going to tell a friend about that novel, movie or program, **what would be the 1 thing you would say?**
3. **Write your sentence using as few words as possible.**

After you read a book, see a movie or view a picture, do you tell someone about it? When you do this, you state the MAIN IDEA.



Learn

The main idea is a sentence stating what a text or passage is **mostly** about.

- Main ideas are typically found in a literary passage.
- Central ideas are found in an informational text.
- Use the **WIN strategy** to help determine the central/main idea:
 - **WHO/WHAT** - Figure out the most important **who** or **what** of the text.
 - **INFORMATION** - Figure out the most important **information** about the **who** or **what**.
 - **NUMBER OF WORDS** - Write the main idea using the fewest possible **number** of words



Learn

Watch the [video](#) to learn more about how to find the main idea of a text.



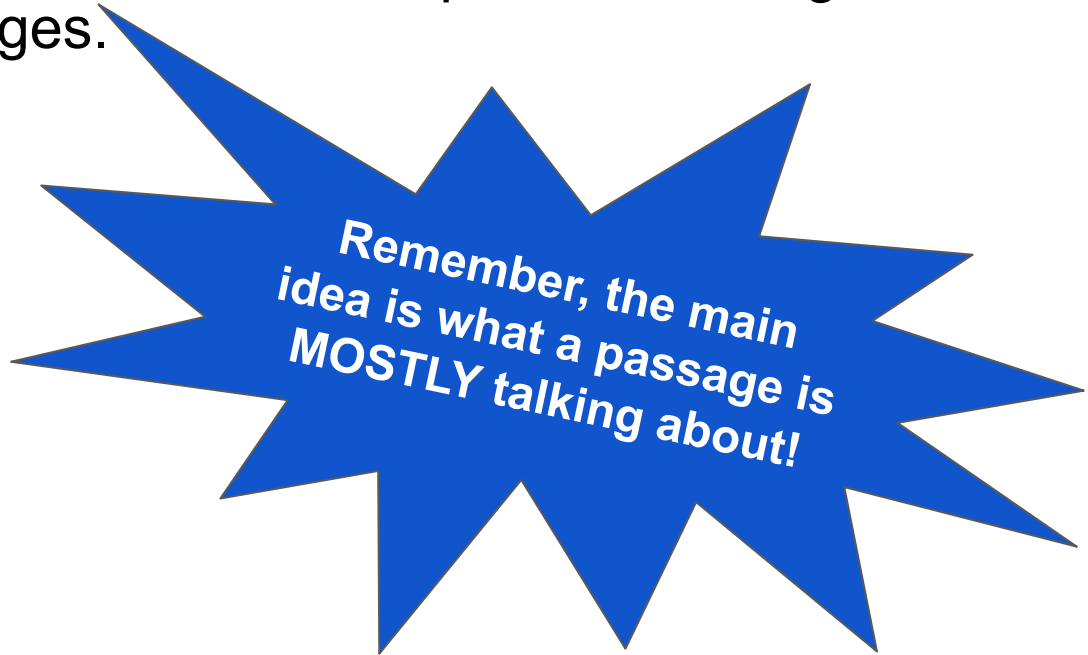
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Practice

On your notebook paper, number 1-4. You will practice finding the main idea of 4 different passages.

1.
2.
3.
4.





Practice

Determine the main idea:

1. I can't wait until this weekend! We're going to my grandparents' house and my entire family will be there. I will spend most of my time playing games with my cousins. We always have such a good time together! The day goes by so fast, and by the end we are all exhausted... but we still don't want to leave!

The main idea of this passage is:

- A. Weekends are times to travel.
- B. The writer enjoys spending time with family.
- C. The writer's grandparents live far away.
- D. The writer is sad to leave her cousins.



Practice

Determine the main idea:

2. Wilbur and Orville Wright were brothers who were inventors, even from a young age when they built kites and bicycles. Many people credit the Wright Brothers with designing and building the first successful airplane. In 1903, their first flight only lasted 12 seconds, but it continues to inspire people all over the world to learn about science and math, to work hard to realize their dreams, and to use imagination to achieve success.

The main idea of this passage is:

- A. The Wright Brothers worked hard.
- B. The Wright Brothers were inventors who have inspired many people.
- C. Inventors build kites and bicycles.
- D. The first flight was in 1903.



Practice

Determine the main idea:

3. I have a dog whose name is Paco. He is almost 10 years old. Paco is very loveable with a brown face and short black fur. He is one of my best friends. He plays with me, sleeps with me, and goes on walks with me. I am so glad to have him around. I love him.

The main idea of this passage is:

- A. The dog's name is Paco.
- B. Everyone should have a dog.
- C. The writer's dog is an important part of his life.
- D. The dog is cute and sweet.



Practice

Determine the main idea:

4. Eric gripped the bat in his hands. His palms were sweaty but he took a deep breath as he stepped up to the plate. He had to score a run or his team would lose the game. When the pitcher threw a fastball, Eric's reflexes took over and he heard the "Crack!" of the bat hitting the ball. His heart raced with excitement as he ran to first base. He was safe!

The main idea of this passage is:

- A. Eric plays baseball.
- B. Eric scores a homerun.
- C. How to play baseball.
- D. Eric overcomes his nerves and makes it to first base.



Practice Answer Key

1. **B.** The writer enjoys spending time with family.
2. **B.** The Wright Brothers were inventors who have inspired many people.
3. **C.** The writer's dog is an important part of his life.
4. **D.** Eric overcomes his nerves and makes it to first base.

Now read 5 pages from your independent reading book. Try writing the main idea for the pages you read!



Additional Resources

If you want additional practice with main idea, try one of these main idea practice games!

[hamburger game](#)

[main idea battleship online activity](#)