

Wester Hailes – English Department

S2 Home Learning Materials

Week beginning 22 March 2021

Hello! These are the worksheets we will be working for the following two weeks. I have also uploaded the same materials in your S2 English Teams. You can hand in your work as an assignment each week or you can complete the tasks on paper, computer, tablet or phone.

e-mail me a picture when you are finished for marking:

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Remember we are also meeting in school where I will explain these tasks in detail and you can ask any questions you may have.

You are all doing an amazing job and I am so pleased to see you soon. 😊

- L.I.: To identify key pieces of information in a text.

Main Idea

What do we mean by main idea?

The main idea is what a writer is trying to say in a piece of writing. Sometimes it takes a bit of working out to get to the main message or idea of a text.

Example

The rain poured down all night, soaking the grass and forming huge puddles by the back door. The temperature had dropped to two degrees. I looked out of the window and sighed. The mud was going to spoil the match.

Question

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

Answer

The main idea is to let the reader know about the weather that day.

- + Main ideas help readers remember important information.**
- + The main idea of a paragraph is what that paragraph is about.**

- **The main idea of a paragraph is what all the sentences are about.**
- Read the paragraph and ask, “What is it about?”
- Then the main idea answers that question.

ACTIVITY 1

The main idea of a paragraph is what all the sentences are about. Read the paragraph and ask, “What’s your point?” Then decide what the main idea is. Circle the letter of your answer.

1. Bill loves to play games. His favourite game is chess because it requires a great deal of thought. Bill also likes to play less demanding board games that are based mostly on luck. He prefers Monopoly because it requires luck and skill. If he’s alone, Bill likes to play action video games as long as they aren’t too violent.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Bill dislikes violence.
- b. Bill likes to think.
- c. Bill enjoys Monopoly.
- d. Bill enjoys playing games.

2. Pat is watching too much television. A toddler shouldn't be spending hours staring blankly at a screen. Worse yet, some of her wild behaviour has been inspired by those awful cartoons she watches. We need to spend more time reading books with her and pull the plug on the TV!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Watching a lot of television isn't good for Pat.
- b. Books are good.
- c. All cartoons are bad.
- d. Some cartoons are bad for Pat.

3. Samantha, I can't eat or sleep when you are gone. I need to hear your scratchy voice and see your lovely toothless smile. I miss that special way that you eat soup with your fingers. Please come home soon!

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- a. Samantha, you have bad manners.
- b. Samantha, you should see a dentist.
- c. Samantha, I miss you.
- d. Samantha, I have lost my appetite.

4. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants. They will look and behave much like real humans. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience. They will be smart, strong, and untiring workers whose only goal will be to make our lives easier.

Which sentence from the paragraph expresses the main idea?

a. Someday we will all have robots that will be our personal servants.

b. We will be able to talk to these mechanical helpers and they will be able to respond in kind.

c. They will look and behave much like real humans.

d. Amazingly, the robots of the future will be able to learn from experience.



ACTIVITY 2

Sometimes it is easy and obvious to spot the main idea in a piece of writing e.g. 'It is telling us about Scotland' or 'It is all about World War 2'

However sometimes you have to be a detective and use **inference** (work out what is really being said) by looking for clues.

Example

The murder happened by the old canal. Under the bridge closest to where the stabbed body was found, a man lived. He had prison tattoos and many people had seen him with a long knife.

What is this passage about?

- a) Murders often happen by canals
- b) The body was found by the canal
- c) The man who lived by the bridge committed the murder

The writer doesn't say the man actually committed the murder, but he **implies** it!

Sometimes someone will try to tell you something without coming right out and saying it. They will **imply** it. When you understand what is implied, you **infer**. Sometimes you can infer the truth even when the speaker or writer isn't trying to be helpful. That's called "reading between the lines."

See if you can infer an implied or hidden message in each of the following selections.

1. Turner almost wished that he hadn't listened to the radio. He went to the closet and grabbed his umbrella. He would feel silly carrying it to the bus stop on such a sunny morning.

What probably happened?

- a. Turner realised that he had an unnatural fear of falling radio parts.
- b. Turner had promised himself to do something silly that morning.
- c. Turner had heard a weather forecast that predicted rain.
- d. Turner planned to trade his umbrella for a bus ride.

.2. Bill and Jessica had almost finished taking turns choosing the players for their teams. It was Jessica's turn to choose, and only Kurt was left.

Jessica said, "Kurt."

We can infer that ...

- a. Kurt is not a very good player.
- b. Jessica was pleased to have Kurt on her team.
- c. Kurt was the best player on either team.
- d. Jessica was inconsiderate of Kurt's feelings.

ACTIVITY 3

Be a detective and work out what the writer is **really** saying in the passages below. The first one is done for you.

Pine Martens, squirrels, badgers and foxes are just a few of the animals you can find in Scotland. Travel into the Highlands and you can find creatures that you won't find anywhere else in the UK.

Question

What is the main idea in this passage?

Answer

There is a lot of wildlife in Scotland.

The Chow is a breed of dog that doesn't appeal to all families. They can be stubborn and don't take kindly to being given instructions from more than one owner. They will need firm boundaries and good training if they are to live with more than one person.

What is the main idea in this passage?

Kyle liked desserts best of all. If it was chocolate that was even better. He liked lemonade, Coke and took three sugars in his tea. He kept a big packet of sweets in his pocket in case he got hungry.

What is the **main idea** in this passage?



I am writing to let you know about my plans for Christmas. I know we talked about me coming up to visit but I have heard from a friend that I haven't seen in five years and he would like to stay with me. I've had a look at flights to come to you and the cheapest I can get costs £500. Do you still want me to come to you?

What does the writer seem to be **implying** in this passage?

The money was on my desk when I left the room. The only person who went into the room when I was gone was David.

What is being **implied** in these sentences?

Now have a go trying to use inference:

Write a couple of sentences that imply you are scared of heights:

ACTIVITY 4

Find the main idea in the paragraph below. Write the main idea in your own words in the space provided.

Elephants are the largest living land mammals. The Asian Elephant, also known as the Indian Elephant, can weigh up to 11,000 pounds. The African Elephant is even bigger, weighing as much as 20,000 pounds. The elephant's gestation period is 22 months, the longest of any mammal, because baby elephants weigh an average of 260 pounds at birth. The largest elephant ever measured was 13 feet tall and weighed 24,000 pounds!

ACTIVITY 5

Find the main idea in the following paragraphs and write them in your own words.

“Maria offered to help her mother clean the house. She vacuumed the living room and dusted the furniture. She picked up the toys in the playroom. Then, she mopped the kitchen floor.”

Main idea: _____

“Winter provides the opportunity for many outdoor activities. Many people enjoy ice skating on a pond. Skiing can be a thrilling experience too. After a new snowfall, you can even build a snowman!”

Main idea: _____

“The rain forest is home to many creatures. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rain forest. Butterflies and anteaters also live in the rain forest.”

Main idea: _____

“Football players learn many skills when playing football. They learn how to dribble and pass the ball. They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score. Most importantly, football players learn how to work together with their teammates.”

Main idea: _____

ACTIVITY 6

Which statement is the main idea?

Which statements are the supporting details?

If you need a guard dog, dachshunds are great at barking at suspicious sounds.

Dachshunds have many great qualities that make them the ideal pet. Most dachshunds are lovable, loyal, and playful.

Dachshunds don't shed very much, so they are easy to clean up after.

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Many different shapes are considered quadrilaterals. A quadrilateral is any shape that has 4 sides.

Squares, rectangles, rhombi, and trapezoids are some examples of quadrilaterals.

Pentagons, hexagons, and octagons are not considered quadrilaterals because they do not have 4 sides.

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Dogs benefit humans in many ways.

First, dogs often act as companions, giving their owners love and attention. This is why they are called “Man’s Best Friend.”

Next, they protect their owner’s property. For example, they protect homes and work sites.

They also work as seeing eye dogs, assisting the blind. For instance, they can assist the blind person with crossing the street safely or maneuvering through a crowded store.

Moreover, they assist paraplegics by fetching their owners needed item.

A case in point is my friend, Bob, who has a golden retriever that trails him all day long, picking up dropped items, such as his pens, and fetching things, such as the newspaper, that Bob needs.

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____