



Supporting details

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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The **main idea** of a story is what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The **details** are *small pieces of information* that make the story more interesting.  
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As you read this story, think about what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The Belling of the Cat

Long ago, the mice held a general meeting to discuss what they could do to outsmart their common enemy, the Cat. Some said this, and some said that.

At last, a young mouse got up and said that he had an idea that would solve everything. "You will all agree," said he, "that the real problem is the sly way the Cat sneaks up on us. She moves so silently that we never know when she is around. We never know when she will pounce on us from behind. Now, if we only had some warning that she was coming, we could easily escape from her. So, what I suggest is that we find a small bell, and simply tie it with a ribbon around the neck of the Cat. This way, we will always know when she is coming, and we can easily run away and hide.

All the mice clapped, and some stood up and cheered. They started to get ready to leave. Then, an old mouse went up to the front of the room. He pounded on a table to get everyone's attention.

"This is all very well," the old mouse said. "But WHO will bell the Cat?" The mice all looked around at one another and nobody spoke.

1. What is this whole story *mostly about*?
 - A. The young mouse will tie a bell around the Cat's neck
 - B. The mice want to hide from the Cat.
 - C. The mice never know when the Cat is around.

2. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. The mice held a meeting to discuss moving to another place.
 - B. The mice held a meeting to discuss what to do about the Cat.
 - C. The mice held a meeting to discuss how to find more food.
3. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. The main problem is that there are too many Cats.
 - B. The main problem is that the Cat has a good sense of smell.
 - C. The main problem is that the Cat is so silent.
4. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. A young mouse suggested tying a bell around the Cat's neck.
 - B. An old mouse suggested tying a bell around the Cat's neck.
 - C. An old mouse suggested stealing the Cat's bell.

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5. What is another *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

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6. How do the details in this story make the story more interesting?

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## Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as, the old mouse asked WHO would tie the bell around the Cat's neck.
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, it is interesting to picture all the mice getting together to have a meeting.