



Main idea and summarizing

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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

The **details** are *small pieces of information* that make the paragraph more interesting.

A **summary** includes the **main idea** of *each of the paragraphs* in a story. It does not include the **details** of the paragraphs.

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As you read this story, look for the **main idea** of each paragraph. These can be put together to make a **summary** of the whole story.

Anthony's teacher, Mr. Rivera, gave the class a different kind of homework assignment. The assignment was to watch the weather report on television every night for a week. Mr. Rivera told the students some things to listen for as they watched each night's report. He also gave them a worksheet to fill out while they watched.

Mr. Rivera said to look at the large weather map that they would see behind the weather reporter. He told them that they might see a large blue line or a large red line on the map. There might be both a blue line and a red line. He said that a blue line is a high pressure area that usually brings dry weather. A red line is a low pressure area that usually brings wet weather. When blue and red lines meet, there usually is stormy weather on the way.

On the worksheet there was a box to fill in with the expected high temperature for the next day. There were other boxes to check if it was expected to rain, or to be cloudy, or to be windy.

Anthony watched the weather report and filled in the worksheet each night. He noticed that the next day was usually a lot like the report said it would be. One day's weather map showed a blue line right next to a red line, and the next day there was a rainstorm. Anthony decided that he liked this kind of homework assignment.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - A. Anthony's teacher is Mr. Rivera.
 - B. Anthony's homework was to watch the weather report for a week.
 - C. Anthony likes to watch the weather report on television.

2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - A. Mr. Rivera told the students what to watch for on the weather report.
 - B. Mr. Rivera said the blue lines usually brings dry weather.
 - C. Mr. Rivera said to look at the weather map behind the reporter.

3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - A. The worksheet had a box to fill in with the expected high temperature for the next day.
 - B. The worksheet had a box to check if it was going to rain.
 - C. Mr. Rivera gave the students a worksheet to fill in.

4. What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
 - A. Anthony liked the homework assignment.
 - B. One day after Anthony watched the report there was a rainstorm.
 - C. Anthony noticed that the weather report was usually right.

5. Write the number 1 through 4 in the boxes beside the events to show the sequence of what happened, from *first to last*.

1-4?

Mr. Rivera told the students what to watch for on the weather report.	
Anthony's homework was to watch the weather report.	
Mr. Rivera gave the students a worksheet to fill in.	
Anthony noticed that the weather report was usually right.	

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6. What would be a good title for this whole story?

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## **Answer Key**

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. C
5. 2, 1, 3, 4
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as "A Different Kind of Homework Assignment."