

# Central Message and Gist

One of the signs that you are a good reader is your ability to determine the main idea of something you've read. You can do this by paying attention to the supporting details of a passage. There are also some other nifty tricks to help you out.

## Vocabulary

Main Idea	A statement about a passage that explains what it was mostly about.
Supporting detail	A detail that supports the overall message of a passage.
Quotation	A detail taken from a passage to support your answer.

## Tips and Tricks for Finding the Main Idea



### 1. Ask yourself, "What am I reading about?"

This is a great strategy for all types of reading. After you read a paragraph, pause for a moment and try to remember what you've read about. If you can't remember, reread it!

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### 2. Look at the pictures or illustrations.

Usually authors add illustrations to help you see the most important information from the passage. What would the main idea be for pictures like these?

		
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### 3. Look for clue words that are used repeatedly.

If the author frequently repeat words or phrases, they are probably trying to get you to learn something.

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# Non-Fiction Main Idea and Evidence

One of the signs that you are a good reader is your ability to determine the main idea of something you've read. You can do this by paying attention to the supporting details of a passage. There are also some other nifty tricks to help you out.

## Vocabulary

Main Idea	A statement about a passage that explains what it was mostly about.
Evidence	A detail that supports the overall message of a passage.
Quotation	A detail taken from a passage to support your answer.

## Tips and Tricks for Finding the Main Idea




### 1. Look at the title or heading of the passage.

If you read a passage with the title or heading like this "Dogs, the best pet!" What will the main idea most likely be?

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### 2. Look at the pictures or illustrations.

Usually authors add illustrations to help you see the most important information from the passage. What would the main idea be for pictures like these?

 		
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### 3. Reread the first and last sentences / paragraphs.

Good writers introduce the idea behind their writing at the beginning of a passage to trigger the reader's brain into learning. If you are not sure what the main idea was in a passage, try for the beginning parts.

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