

Finding the Main Idea in a Short Story

Class 3 • English • Worksheet (illustrative sample)

Worksheet for Class 3 English: Finding the Main Idea in a Short Story.

Questions

1. Read: "Riya practiced swimming every single afternoon. Even when tired, she swam ten laps. By summer, she won first prize at the district meet." What is the main idea?
2. In the passage above, write one supporting detail.
3. What is the moral of the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare"?
4. True or false: A main idea must always be the very first sentence of a paragraph.
5. Read: "Elephants use their trunks in amazing ways. They drink water, lift heavy logs, greet other elephants, and spray dust." What is the main idea?
6. List two supporting details from the elephant passage.
7. Why is the title of a book or story a helpful clue for the main idea?
8. Summarize your favorite story in two sentences.

Answer Key

1. Hard work and consistent practice lead to success (or Riya won the swimming meet through regular practice).
2. "Even when tired, she swam ten laps" (or "Riya practiced swimming every single afternoon").
3. Slow and steady wins the race (or consistency and patience beat overconfidence).
4. False while often at the beginning, the main idea can be in the middle, at the end, or implied throughout.
5. Elephants use their trunks for many versatile purposes.
6. 1) They drink water with their trunks; 2) They lift heavy logs.
7. The title usually points directly to the subject or central theme of the story.
8. Sample: The story of Cinderella shows that kindness and courage are rewarded despite hardships, leading to a joyful ending.

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