

# Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

Summarise the main ideas and points  
of an extract or picture



## Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Holly's mother had told her to clean her room before her birthday party. She needed to clear up space for more gifts before she could bring any into the house! She spent the whole day sorting out her toys so she had plenty of room. All of her dolls went into one bucket, all of her puzzles went into another. She put all of her stuffed animals on her bed, and lined up her toy cars and trains all around her room. By the time her party started, her room was spotless.

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## Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Evie pulled a face and looked down at her plate in disgust. She couldn't believe her mum had made a dinner with every single one of her least favourite ingredients. There was yucky cucumber and lettuce, covered in sticky mayonnaise. Mum had even put tomatoes on the chicken, and carrots on the side. To make matters worse, dessert was rice pudding, and Evie hated rice pudding! This was the worst meal ever.

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## Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

As soon as Alfie drifted off to sleep, he was transported into a magical faraway land. He was surrounded by fairy tale characters and people from the movie that he had watched just before bed. The characters couldn't see him, but he could see them and hear everything they were saying. Just as he was finding it fun, a dragon came swooping down upon him, baring its teeth and breathing fire. He jumped and sat up, wide awake, his heart pounding.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

A blizzard is an extreme weather event that occurs most often during the winter. Blizzards happen when there are very low temperatures and high winds, always during a severe snowstorm. Often, schools, shops and places of work are closed during blizzards. It can be very dangerous to travel during a blizzard, and most people would choose to stay off the roads until the blizzard has passed.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Newborn babies are adorable, but they are a lot of work! When babies are very young they need to eat every two or three hours around the clock, and they need to have their nappies changed just as often. It takes babies a while to get into a routine, and when they are first born they often sleep during the day and stay awake all night. Babies love cuddles and sometimes want to be held all the time. Mums and Dads of new-born babies are often very tired.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Baking is a popular hobby. It is becoming even more popular as a result of television baking shows which have huge audiences. Baking is easy to do with the right recipe. Many people enjoy baking cakes and biscuits, because there are so many different ideas and flavours to use! Lots of bakers like to share what they have made with their friends and family and find it a relaxing hobby to do at home.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Having a pet is a big responsibility, but it can be lots of fun too. Choosing the right kind of pet for your home is very important. You might want a dog, but don't enjoy walking. In this case, you might decide that a different animal, such as a cat or rabbit, would suit you better. Deciding which pet to have is a decision that needs to be taken by the whole family. Some people choose the wrong pet, and don't enjoy looking after it. However, lots of people who do have pets love them very much and find that if they look after their pet properly, they have a friend for life.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Being ill is no fun, so taking steps to avoid getting sick is very important for you, your friends, and everyone in your community. It is easy for germs to spread and cause other people to become poorly. It's important to remember to wash your hands before you eat, and always after sneezing or blowing your nose. Tissues should be put straight in the bin. You should always remember to cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, too.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

The Titanic was a huge ship which was built in Belfast and operated by the White Star Line. It is famous for sinking on its maiden voyage in April 1912, whilst carrying over 2000 passengers. The ship was said to be unsinkable, but it struck an iceberg which tore holes in the ship's hull. The passengers on board the ship had very little time to exit the ship and many people died.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Molly tapped on the window next to her front door. She cupped her hands around her eyes and peered inside, desperately trying to get someone's attention. Nobody came to the door, so she checked the back door. It was locked. Her fingers were getting cold and she was starting to shiver. She took her backpack off and tried climbing up to the lowest window, but she couldn't reach it. She was sure she would be stuck outside for hours. That will teach me for leaving my keys at home, she thought.

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#### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Oscar was feeling nervous. He checked his tie for the tenth time, and once again smoothed down the bit of his hair that always stuck up. He looked at the clock and realised it was finally time to leave. Picking up his bag, Oscar shouted goodbye to his mum and walked slowly down the drive. Today was the day he started High School, a day he had been nervously anticipating for what seemed like a lifetime.

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Read the following passage and write a statement which gives the main idea of the passage. Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?**

Harry walked miserably down the stairs and sighed at his mum, who was waiting for him. He had been to see the dentist for a routine check-up. Harry had always enjoyed seeing the dentist, but this time his love of sweets – and his dislike of brushing his teeth – had finally caught up with him. He was going to need a filling and he was feeling very anxious about it.

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

Look at this picture – can you write a statement which gives the main idea of the picture? Can you also write one detail which supports the the main idea?



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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

Look at this picture – can you write a statement which gives the main idea of the picture? Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?



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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

Look at this picture – can you write a statement which gives the main idea of the picture? Can you also write one detail which supports the main idea?



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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

Dogs make great companions; they are loving and have been proven to make people happier and less lonely. They can also be trained to help with certain things such as answering the door and waking their owners.

**What is the main idea of this paragraph?**

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

As the bully pushed Henry against the playground wall, a voice shouted, “Hey, stop that.” It was the voice of Evan Keeble. The bully let go of Henry’s collar and turned aggressively towards Evan. Evan stood firm, despite shaking inside, and stared into the bully’s eyes. “Leave him alone,” he demanded, just about disguising the fear in his voice. The bully, who was almost twice the size of Evan, threw his head back in laughter. But Evan did not waiver.

**Summarise the impression readers are given about Evan in 20 words or less.**

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### Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

There are many festivals all over the UK where families can listen to music and enjoy the atmosphere with great food and good company. Families can choose to camp on a festival campsite, where it is very exciting to sleep outdoors. Some people enjoy larger festivals, such as Glastonbury, whilst others prefer smaller festivals such as Beautiful Days in Devon.

**What is this passage about?**

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## Main Idea Guided Reading Skills

**Write a statement which sums up what is happening in this scene.**



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The main idea of the passage is...

**Holly tidied her room for her party.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Evie didn't like her meal.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Alfie had a vivid dream.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Blizzards are extreme weather events.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Babies need lots of looking after.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Baking is a popular hobby.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**You must think carefully before getting a pet.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**It is important to avoid spreading germs.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**The Titanic was a ship that sank.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Molly was locked out of the house.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Oscar was nervous about starting his new school.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of the passage is...

**Harry needs a filling.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The man has climbed a mountain.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**There has been a very heavy snowfall.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The clown is surrounded by bubbles.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**A man is driving a horse and cart along the road.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**It is raining heavily.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The girl is in a swimming pool.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The boy is feeding a goat.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The rocket is blasting off into space.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**A canoe is travelling along a river.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**Hot air balloons are high in the sky.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The boat is sinking.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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The main idea of this picture is...

**The baby is not happy on Santa's knee.**

Can you say one detail which supports the main idea?

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