

5th-6th Grade Reading Lesson Plans

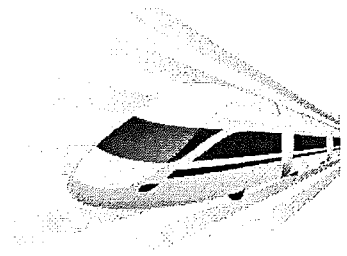
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Name: _____

Summary and Main Idea Worksheet 1

Directions: Read each passage and...

1. Create a title for the passage related to the main idea.
2. Accurately summarize the text.
3. Your summary must describe all key ideas from the text.
4. Do **not** include opinions or personal info in your summary.
5. Highlight or underline key ideas in each passage.



Picture this: a herd of elephants flies past you at sixty miles per hour, followed by a streak of tigers, a pride of lions, and a bunch of clowns. What do you see? It must be a circus train! One of the first uses of the circus train is credited to W.C. Coup. He partnered with P.T. Barnum in 1871 to expand the reach of their newly combined shows using locomotives. Before circus trains, these operators had to lug around all of their animals, performers, and equipment with a team of more than 600 horses. Since there were no highways, these voyages were rough and took a long time. Circuses would stop at many small towns between the large venues. Performing at many of these small towns was not very profitable. Because of these limitations, circuses could not grow as large as the imaginations of the operators. After they began using circus trains, Barnum and Coup only brought their show to large cities. These performances were much more profitable and the profits went toward creating an even bigger and better circus. Multiple rings were added and the show went on. Today, Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus still rely on the circus train to transport their astounding show, but now they use two.

1. Main idea related title for the passage:

2. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

How do you say “Holy cow” in French? The fastest thing in France may just be the fastest ground transportation in the world. The TGV (*Train à Grande Vitesse*: French for very high speed) is France’s national high speed rail service. On April 3rd, 2007, a TGV test train set a record for the fastest wheeled train, reaching 357.2 miles per hour. In mid 2011, TGV trains operated at the highest speed in passenger train service in the world, regularly reaching 200 miles per hour. But what you may find most shocking is that TGV trains run on electric power not petrol. Now if you’ll excuse me; I have a record to catch.

3. Main idea related title for the passage:

4. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Giddy-up, cowboys and girls! In the Southwest during early half of the 1800s, cows were only worth 2 or 3 dollars a piece. They roamed wild, grazed off of the open range, and were abundant. Midway through the century though, railroads were built and the nation was connected. People could suddenly ship cows in freight trains to the Northeast, where the Yankees had a growing taste for beef. Out of the blue, the same cows that were once worth a couple of bucks were now worth between twenty and forty dollars each, if you could get them to the train station. It became pretty lucrative to wrangle up a drove of cattle and herd them to the nearest train town, but it was at least as dangerous as it was profitable. Cowboys were threatened at every turn. They faced cattle rustlers, stampedes and extreme weather, but kept pushing those steers to the train station. By the turn of the century, barbed wire killed the open range and some may say the cowboy too, but it was the train that birthed him.

5. Main idea related title for the passage:

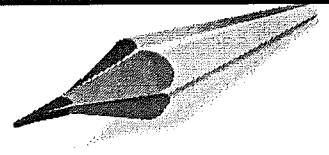
6. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Electric trolley cars or trams were once the chief mode of public transportation in the United States. Though they required tracks and electric cables to run, these trolley cars were clean and comfortable. In 1922, auto manufacturer General Motors created a special unit to replace electric trolleys with cars, trucks, and buses. Over the next decade, this group successfully lobbied for laws and regulations that made operating trams more difficult and less profitable. In 1936 General Motors created several front companies for the purpose of purchasing and dismantling the trolley car system. They received substantial investments from Firestone Tire, Standard Oil of California, Phillips Petroleum, and other parties invested in the automotive industry. Some people suspect that these parties wanted to replace trolley cars with buses to make public transportation less desirable, which would then increase automobile sales. The decline of the tram system in North America could be attributed to many things—labor strikes, the Great Depression, regulations that were unfavorable to operators—but perhaps the primary cause was having a group of powerful men from rival sectors of the auto industry working together to ensure its destruction. Fill it up, please.

7. Main idea related title for the passage:

8. Summarize the passage in your own words: _____

Name _____ Summarizing



Summary and Main Idea Worksheet

Read each passage. Create a title for each passage that expresses the main idea, then summarize it in your own words.

Although they have enjoyed renewed popularity in the past several decades due to the environmental movement, electric cars have a long history in the United States. The first successful U.S. electric car was built in 1891. It was soon followed by more makes and models, including an electric taxi in 1897. Around the turn of the century, nearly one third of all the cars being manufactured in the U.S. were electric. Two key innovations, however, changed the trajectory of the electric car. First, Henry Ford introduced the gasoline-powered Model T in 1908. At that time, gasoline-powered cars were still started with a cumbersome hand crank starter. Second, Charles Kettering invented the first practical electric automobile starter in 1912. Together, these inventions made gasoline-powered cars the vehicle of choice in the U.S. due to their greater horsepower, range, and ease of refueling.

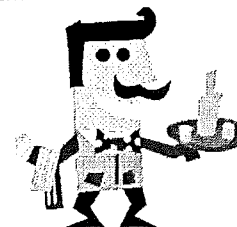
Title: _____

Summary: _____

Albert Augustus Pope began his business career manufacturing bicycles in 1876. Though already successful, in the late 1890s, Pope recognized the potential profits to be made manufacturing the increasingly popular "horseless carriage." In 1896, Pope created one of the first car companies in America — the Columbia Electric Vehicle Company — using his Hartford factory. Pope chose electric motors for his cars because they are cleaner, quieter, and work more efficiently than gas-powered motors. His first model, the Mark III, produced in 1897, was a great success. Two years later, Columbia produced over two thousand cars in several different models. Pope's fortunes changed, though, when the Ford Motor Company introduced the Model T in 1908. People preferred gasoline-powered cars since gasoline was relatively easy to obtain. Pope tried to keep up with the times by switching to making gasoline-powered cars, but by the time Charles Kettering invented the first practical electrical starter for the automobile in 1912, making gas-powered cars more practical and even more popular, Pope was already out of business.

Title: _____

Summary: _____

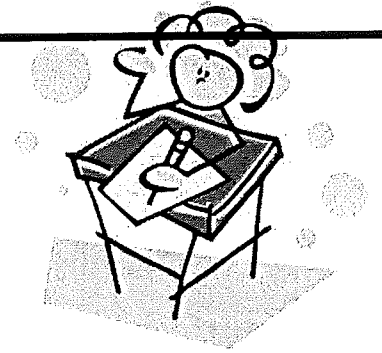


Topic Sentence or Supporting Evidence?

DIRECTIONS: Read each pair of sentences. Circle **TS** for **Topic Sentence** or **SD** for **Supporting Detail** next each sentence.

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| TS | SD | 1. The quality of a restaurant is expressed by food, ambiance, and quality of service. |
| TS | SD | The darker-colored walls and low lighting create a feeling of intimacy. |
| TS | SD | 2. Daily practice in any subject will improve student proficiency. |
| TS | SD | Students benefit from doing homework every day in three distinct ways. |
| TS | SD | 3. There are certain things that a useful toolbox should not be without. |
| TS | SD | Keep at least two screwdrivers; one flat head and one Phillip's head. |
| TS | SD | 4. Real beauty can only be attained by good nutrition, proper hydration, and sufficient sleep. |
| TS | SD | Your body is 70% water, and water is needed to keep cells healthy, including skin cells. |
| TS | SD | 5. They spent the morning doing papercrafts. |
| TS | SD | The children made the best of the cold, rainy day. |
| TS | SD | 6. Chicken is an extremely versatile meat. |
| TS | SD | Using various marinades makes chicken taste different every time you have it. |

Name _____ Supporting Details



Supporting Details

DIRECTIONS: Add three supporting details to go with each topic sentence.

1. School uniforms are a good idea for middle schoolers.

a.

b.

c.

2. Cell phones should be permitted in school.

a.

b.

c.

3. You can learn a lot from playing video games.

a.

b.

c.

4. There are three things you can do to start getting healthier today.

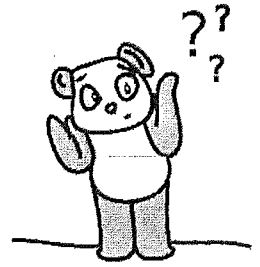
a.

b.

c.

Name _____ **Supporting Details**

Recognizing Supporting Details



DIRECTIONS: Read each group of sentences. One of them is a topic sentence, and the other two provide supporting details. Circle the letters of the sentences that provide supporting details.

1. **TOPIC:** gardening
 - A. Many people enjoy flowers.
 - B. Gardening is a fun and healthy pastime.
 - C. Gardening is a form of mild exercise.

2. **TOPIC:** homework
 - A. There are many different opinions about homework.
 - B. Some people believe homework is unnecessary.
 - C. Others believe that homework is important.

3. **TOPIC:** dogs
 - A. Some breeds are best suited for athletic people.
 - B. Some breeds are "lap dogs" and suited for a quiet life.
 - C. There is a perfect breed of dog for everyone.

4. **TOPIC:** novels
 - A. You learn to put yourself in someone else's shoes.
 - B. Reading novels can help you develop important life skills.
 - C. Reading novels is an opportunity to practice critical thinking.

5. **TOPIC:** weather
 - A. This summer we have enjoyed wonderful weather.
 - B. Temperatures have averaged 85 degrees.
 - C. We have hardly had any rain.

6. **TOPIC:** Pokémon
 - A. Pokémon is popular around the globe.
 - B. There are Pokémon
 - C. Pokémon products are available in many languages.

Supporting Details Worksheet

DIRECTIONS: Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

There are many good reasons to choose a vegan lifestyle. Some people follow a vegan diet for their health. Cutting out consumption of meat, eggs, and dairy — and eating a diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables, grains, and legumes — can reduce the risk of debilitating "lifestyle" diseases like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, or Alzheimer's. There are also many studies that show that following a vegan diet that is high in fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, and legumes results in a leaner, more energetic body. Others "go vegan" as a way to take a stand for animal rights. Still others object to the way our modern animal agricultural system is contributing to global warming and deforestation, and refuse to buy and eat meat as a matter of protest. Whatever reason vegans find most motivating, veganism has grown 500% since 2014, and there is every indication that it will continue to grow in popularity.

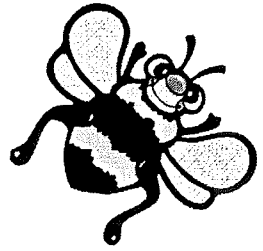


1. What is the paragraph's main idea? _____

3. List the major supporting details that support the main idea.

Name _____ **Mood and Tone**

Identifying Tone



DIRECTIONS: Choose the word from the box that best describes the tone of each passage. Not all words will be used.

- a. judgmental b. inspirational c. indignant d. empathetic
e. humble f. urgent g. whimsical h. apathetic

_____ 1. It is a mistake to think that we can leave this problem to the next generation to solve. The clock is ticking. We must act.

_____ 2. He didn't speak, but he didn't need to. Dozens of memories flashed through my mind, and each was accompanied by a pang so sharp that for a moment I thought I might double over myself as I slid my arm around his waist and helped him to hobble to the chair.

_____ 3. It was the most unbelievable thing he had ever seen. It surpassed imagining. All he could do was shake his head. How could they have done it to him!

_____ 4. She flitted here and there, lighting on a petal, and then bouncing up as though it was a trampoline—and then falling, falling, until suddenly a bumblebee zipped beneath her and she clasped onto its furry body with a grin.

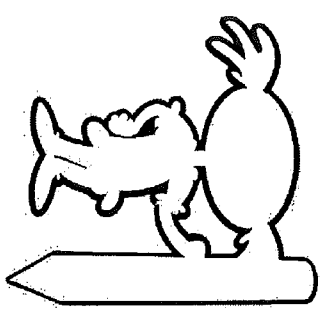
_____ 5. Belief is the key. It conquers all. Belief can be medicine to the body, tonic to the mind, and salve to the soil. Simply believe, and anything is possible.

_____ 6. The meat was tough, the soup was cold, and the pie was clammy. When the waitress came by to ask how everything was, I just looked up at her and rolled my eyes. Enough said.

Name _____

Mood and Tone

Mood and Tone Worksheet



DIRECTIONS: For each passage below, write the tone and the mood of the passage. Then write down the context clues that convey them.

1. There are things behind me that return to me from time to time to give me pause. The memories of them are like pests I desperately try to keep out of the house, that nonetheless continuously gnaw their way back in.

TONE: _____

MOOD: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: _____

2. Failing does not make a man a failure. Only quitting can do that. Failure is not a destination; it is but a signpost on the way, and should be taken as an indication that you are getting somewhere.

TONE: _____

MOOD: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: _____

3. Two weeks ago there were clusters of frog eggs in the puddle. Today, there were tadpoles. It takes 11 to 18 weeks for a tadpole to turn into a frog, so I will be checking back often.

TONE: _____

MOOD: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: _____



Tone

It had suddenly appeared to him that perhaps in a battle he might run. He was forced to admit that as far as war was concerned he knew nothing of himself.

A sufficient time before he would have allowed the problem to kick its heels at the outer portals of his mind, but now he felt compelled to give serious attention to it.

A little panic-fear grew in his mind. As his imagination went forward to a fight, he saw hideous possibilities. He contemplated the lurking menaces of the future, and failed in an effort to see himself standing stoutly in the midst of them. He recalled his visions of broken-bladed glory, but in the shadow of the impending tumult he suspected them to be impossible pictures.

He sprang from the bunk and began to pace nervously to and fro. "Good Lord, what's th' matter with me?" he said aloud.

From The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

1. The tone of the passage is:
 - a. slightly mocking
 - b. belligerent
 - c. objective
 - d. animated
2. The tone of the second paragraph is:
 - a. celebratory
 - b. cautionary
 - c. informative
 - d. macabre
3. The writer's main purpose is to:
 - a. caution the reader about war
 - b. encourage the reader to think about courage
 - c. inform the reader about war
 - d. convince the reader that the character has no courage
4. In which sentence does the author indicate that prior to this moment the character may have had glorified ideas about war?
 - a. He sprang from the bunk and began to pace nervously...
 - b. He recalled his visions of broken-bladed glory...
 - c. He was forced to admit that as far as war was concerned...
 - d. He contemplated the lurking menaces of the future...