



Introduction

Welcome to this worksheet on understanding main ideas and supporting details in short stories. This activity is designed for 9-year-old students in the UK Primary School Curriculum and aims to enhance their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.

The worksheet is divided into 10 pages, each with a variety of questions and activities tailored to meet the needs of mixed-ability learners (foundation, core, and extension).

Page 1: Understanding Main Ideas

1. What is the main idea of a story? _____
2. How can you identify the main idea of a story? _____
3. Read the following passage and identify the main idea:

"The sun was shining brightly in the clear blue sky. The birds were singing their sweet melodies. It was a beautiful day."

Main idea: _____

Foundation: Use a visual aid to help identify the main idea. **Core:** Write a short paragraph explaining the main idea. **Extension:** Analyze how the author uses descriptive language to convey the main idea.

Page 2: Identifying Supporting Details

1. What are supporting details in a story? _____

2. How do supporting details help to develop the main idea?

3. Read the following passage and identify two supporting details:

"The boy was very happy when he received his new bike. He had been wanting it for a long time. He immediately rode it to the park and played with his friends."

Supporting details: _____

Foundation: Use a graphic organizer to identify supporting details. **Core:** Write a short paragraph explaining how the supporting details develop the main idea. **Extension:** Evaluate how the supporting details contribute to the overall impact of the story.

Page 3: Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

"The girl was very excited to go to the beach. She had been looking forward to it for weeks. She packed her swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen. When she arrived at the beach, she ran straight into the water and started swimming."

1. What is the main idea of the passage? _____

2. What are two supporting details that develop the main idea?

3. What can you infer about the girl's feelings in the passage?

Foundation: Use a visual aid to help answer the questions. **Core:** Write a short paragraph summarizing the passage. **Extension:** Analyze how the author uses descriptive language to convey the girl's emotions.

Page 4: Summarizing

Summarize the following passage in your own words:

"The boy was very sad when he lost his favorite toy. He had received it as a gift from his grandmother. He looked everywhere for it, but couldn't find it. He felt happy again when his mother found it for him."

Foundation: Use a graphic organizer to help summarize the passage. **Core:** Write a short paragraph summarizing the passage. **Extension:** Evaluate how the author uses emotional language to convey the boy's feelings.

Page 5: Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details

Read the following passage and identify the main idea and two supporting details:

"The city was very crowded and noisy. The streets were filled with people and cars. The sound of horns and sirens filled the air. Despite the chaos, the city was an exciting place to visit."

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Foundation: Use a visual aid to help identify the main idea and supporting details. **Core:** Write a short paragraph explaining how the supporting details develop the main idea. **Extension:** Analyze how the author uses sensory language to convey the atmosphere of the city.

Page 6: Creating a Story Map

Create a story map to visualize the main idea and supporting details of the following passage:

"The girl was very excited to go to the party. She had been looking forward to it for weeks. She wore her favorite dress and danced with her friends all night. She had a wonderful time and couldn't wait to go to the next party."

Foundation: Use a pre-made story map template. **Core:** Create a story map from scratch. **Extension:** Analyze how the story map helps to develop the main idea and supporting details.

Page 7: Writing a Summary

Write a summary of the following passage:

"The boy was very happy when he received his new bike. He had been wanting it for a long time. He immediately rode it to the park and played with his friends. He felt free and excited as he rode his bike through the park."

Foundation: Use a graphic organizer to help write a summary. **Core:** Write a short paragraph summarizing the passage. **Extension:** Evaluate how the author uses descriptive language to convey the boy's emotions.

Page 8: Identifying Themes

Read the following passage and identify the theme:

"The girl was very kind to her friend when she was feeling sad. She listened to her problems and offered words of encouragement. Her friend felt better and thanked her for her kindness."

Theme: _____

Foundation: Use a visual aid to help identify the theme. **Core:** Write a short paragraph explaining the theme. **Extension:** Analyze how the author uses character actions to convey the theme.

Page 9: Creating a Comic Strip

Create a comic strip to visualize the main idea and supporting details of the following passage:

"The boy was very excited to go to the beach. He had been looking forward to it for weeks. He packed his swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen. When he arrived at the beach, he ran straight into the water and started swimming."



Foundation: Use a pre-made comic strip template. **Core:** Create a comic strip from scratch. **Extension:** Analyze how the comic strip helps to develop the main idea and supporting details.

Page 10: Reflection

Reflect on what you have learned about main ideas and supporting details in short stories. How can you apply this skill in your everyday reading?

Foundation: Write a short paragraph reflecting on what you have learned. **Core:** Write a short essay reflecting on what you have learned. **Extension:** Create a visual project (e.g., infographic, poster) reflecting on what you have learned.

