Rosa could not find her hat. She looked and looked. Then Rosa saw her cat. The cat was sleeping in her hat.

What is the main idea?

(A) The cat wanted to play.
(B) Rosa found her hat.
Father was going fishing. "Good-by. I will be back in two days," he said. Father got into his car. The car went down the street.

What is the main idea?

(A) Father came home.
(B) Father went away.
Betty looked out the window. It was raining. She could not go out to play. Betty said, “I wish it would stop raining.”

What is the main idea?

(A) Betty wanted the rain to stop.
(B) Betty liked looking at the rain.
Tom got out of the car. He took a picture of the falls. The water went down, down, down over the rocks.

What is the main idea?

(A) Tom saw rocks fall over the top.
(B) Tom took a picture of falling water.
The dog could not walk. Maria took it into her house. The dog stayed at Maria’s house for five days. Then it could walk again.

What is the main idea?

(A) Maria helped a dog.
(B) A dog ran away.
Amy said, “I wish I could find my book.” She looked for the book at school. She looked in her house. But Amy could not find it.

What is the main idea?

(A) Amy got a new book.
(B) Amy could not find her book.
Rick went to a farm. He saw two goats and a pig. He saw a big horse. Rick said, "I want to come back to the farm again."

What is the main idea?

(A) Rick saw a pig.

(B) Rick liked the farm.
Last night, the girls looked at TV. They saw a show about a pig. It was a fat pig that liked to eat. The girls had a good time.

What is the main idea?

(A) The girls saw a pig on TV.
(B) The girls had something to eat.
Bill got on the bus. He was going to see a friend. Bill was on the bus for five days. He was happy when the ride was over.

What is the main idea?

(A) Bill took a long bus ride.
(B) Bill had fun on a bus.
“Try to get me,” called Ann. She ran down the street. Her friends ran after Ann, but they could not get her. Ann was too fast.

What is the main idea?

(A) Ann has many friends.
(B) No one could get Ann.
School is over. Now the children will have fun at the park each day. They will swim and play ball.

What is the main idea?

(A) The children are sad when school is over.
(B) The children like to do things at the park.
Jack was playing ball. When he went home, he did not take his coat. Jack went back to look for his coat. It was not there.

What is the main idea?

(A) Jack found his lost coat.
(B) Jack lost his coat.
A. Exercising Your Skill

The children in the picture are going to the park. Be a detective. Search for main idea clues in the picture. Look at the picture carefully. On your paper, answer the questions below.

1. Where have the children been?
2. Why are they smiling?
3. Why do the children like to go to the park?
4. Give the picture and story a name. The name should be the main idea.

B. Expanding Your Skill

Read the lists below. Write names for each list. The names should tell the main idea of each list.

At the Park

play ball        swings
jump rope        slide
ride a bike      bench
C. Exploring Language

Write the story on your paper. Use your own words to fill in the blanks. Then give the story a name. The name should tell the main idea.

What do I like to do after school? When I get home I like to ____. Then I spend time in my _____. Sometimes I ____ books. Sometimes I play with my _____.

D. Expressing Yourself

Do one of these things.

1. Draw a picture of you doing something fun at the park. Give the picture a name.

2. Write what two children might talk about as they walk to the park. Have them talk about what they will do at the park. With a friend, act out what the children say. Give this little story a name.
A cow was walking down the street. Mary was sitting on the cow. She was taking the cow to her father’s farm. It was funny to see Mary on the cow.

What is the main idea?

(A) Father has a cow.
(B) Mary was riding a cow.
“May I have some more cake?” asked Tom. Mother gave him more cake to eat. Tom was happy. His mother made a good cake.

What is the main idea?

(A) Tom’s mother bakes cake every week.
(B) Tom likes Mother’s cake.
Betty got a new wagon. She sat in her wagon and went down a hill. It was a long hill. Betty went very fast.

What is the main idea?

(A) Betty had a fast ride.
(B) Betty gave her wagon away.
Mother gave Peg a book. It was a book about animals. Peg took it to bed with her. She read the book before she went to sleep.

What is the main idea?

(A) Mother likes to read.
(B) Peg read in bed.
There were many children at Rick’s party. They played games and had cake to eat. Then the children gave Rick a surprise. It was a toy airplane.

What is the main idea?
(A) Rick made a cake.
(B) Rick had a party.
When Father made a table, Bill painted it. After Father cut the grass, Bill put water on it. Father likes to have Bill help him.

What is the main idea?

(A) Bill helped his father.
(B) Bill got a new table.
Mother was going to see a friend. She did not know if she should go on a bus or a train. At last Mother said, "I will go on a bus."

What is the main idea?

(A) Mother will take a bus ride.
(B) Mother will take a train ride.
Ted looked up. There was a big bird flying over his house. It was flying very high. Ted said, "I wish I could fly like a bird."

What is the main idea?

(A) The bird was very small.
(B) Ted would like to fly like a bird.
"Tell us a story," said the girls. Mary told them about a funny pig. The pig hopped like a rabbit. The girls liked Mary’s story.

What is the main idea?

(A) Mary has a pet.
(B) Mary tells a story.
“I hear the baby crying,” said Jenny. She went to look at the baby. It was crying. Jenny gave the baby something to eat. Soon the baby was sleeping again.

What is the main idea?

(A) Jenny helped a crying baby.
(B) Jenny found a lost baby.
Some flowers need more light than others. Some flowers need more water than others. All flowers need food to help them grow.

What is the main idea?

(A) Flowers need water every day.
(B) Flowers need light, water, and food.
Mary ran home from school. She wanted to ride her bike. Mary put her books in the house. Then she went riding down the street on her bike.

What is the main idea?

(A) Mary likes riding her bike.
(B) Mary likes going to school.
A. Exercising Your Skill

Look at the picture. Then read the words in each list below. On your own paper, write a good name for each list of words.

On a Farm

- cows
- sheep
- pigs
- horses
- barn
- fence
- tractor
- crops

B. Expanding Your Skill

Talk about the picture.

1. Where does the picture take place?
2. Which animals do you see in the picture?
3. What is a good name for the picture? The name should tell the main idea.
C. Exploring Language

Write the story that follows on your paper. Use your own words to fill in the blanks. Give the story a name. The name tells the main idea of the story.

Did you ever visit a farm? There are many different kinds of animals on a farm. A ____, ____, and ____ live on a farm. Some of these animals sleep and eat in a ____. It is a place where animals can stay warm.

D. Expressing Yourself

Do one of these things.

1. Draw a picture of something you would like to see on a farm. Write a sentence that tells about why you would like to see it.

2. Pretend to be an animal. Move like it. Make sounds like it. See if your class can guess the animal. Give word clues to tell about the animal if you need to.