



Main idea and details

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read to the student and help the student to record their answers.

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The **main idea** of a story is what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The **details** are *small pieces of information* that make the story more interesting.

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1. Listen to this story. Think about what the whole story is *mostly about*.

Mouse and Lion live in the African grasslands. Lion is very large, and Mouse is very small. When Lion roars, the ground shakes. When Mouse squeaks, not even the grass shakes.

One day, Mouse smelled smoke. Mouse ran to find Lion. "Squeak, squeak!" Mouse squeaked. "I smell smoke, Lion! I think there is a fire!"

Lion looked around. He smelled the smoke, too. He lowered his huge head, and told Mouse to climb onto his back. Lion raced to the top of the highest hill, with Mouse holding on for dear life.

Lion saw the fire on the edge of the grasslands. He raised his head and roared his mighty roar. All the animals knew that special roar. It meant danger! They gathered their young ones, and ran to safety near the river.

What is this whole story mostly about? Circle your answer.

A forest fire	Mouse smells smoke	Mouse is very small
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2. Which of these is a small piece of information from the story that makes the story more interesting? Circle your answer.

When Lion roars, the ground shakes.	The African grasslands are hot and dry.	Mouse has a long tail.
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3. Which of these is a small piece of information from the story that makes the story more interesting? Circle your answer.

Lion sleeps most of the day.	The animals know that Lion's special roar means danger.	Many kinds of animals live in the grasslands.
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4. What is another small piece of information from the story that makes the story more interesting?

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5. How do the details in this story make this story more interesting?

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## Answer Key

1. Mouse smells smoke.
2. When Lion roars, the ground shakes.
3. The animals know that Lion's special roar means danger.
4. Accept any reasonable response, such as, Lion lets Mouse ride on his back when he runs to look for the fire.
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as, it is interesting to picture Mouse riding on Lion's back as Lion races up the hill to search for the fire.