

Main idea and supporting details

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

The **main idea** is what the story is mostly about.

The **supporting details** are small pieces of information that help explain the main idea.

1. Read the story once.

The Mouse family lived in a cozy little hole behind the Smiths' kitchen cabinet. Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, along with their three little mice, loved their home. They had been living there for years. It was warm in the winter, cool in the summer and always full of delicious smells.

Every evening after the Smith family went to bed, the mice scurried out to explore. Mr. Mouse loved the kitchen best. Crumbs were easy to find, and sometimes there was even a bit of cheese left on the counter. "This house is perfect!" said Mr. Mouse, nibbling on a cracker one night.



The little mice loved the playroom. They squeaked with excitement as they slid down toy ramps and hid inside the dollhouse. "The Smith kids have the best toys," said one of the young mice.

Even Mrs. Mouse had her favorite spot—the laundry room. "The pile of soft towels is so cozy," she said, curling up for a nap one evening. "It's like a fluffy bed!"

One day, Mr. Smith spotted the mice near the pantry. "Oh no! We have mice!" he said, and he set out a few traps. Thankfully, the Mouse family was clever. They avoided the traps and kept living their happy little lives behind the cabinet.

For the little Mouse family, the Smiths' house wasn't just a place to live. It was full of adventure, food and fun. The Mouse family couldn't imagine a better home.

2. Read the story a second time. This time, underline the main idea and circle the supporting details.

3. Then answer the following questions:

What is the story's main idea?

- a. Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, along with their three little mice, loved their home.
- b. They had been living there for years.
- c. The little mice loved the playroom.

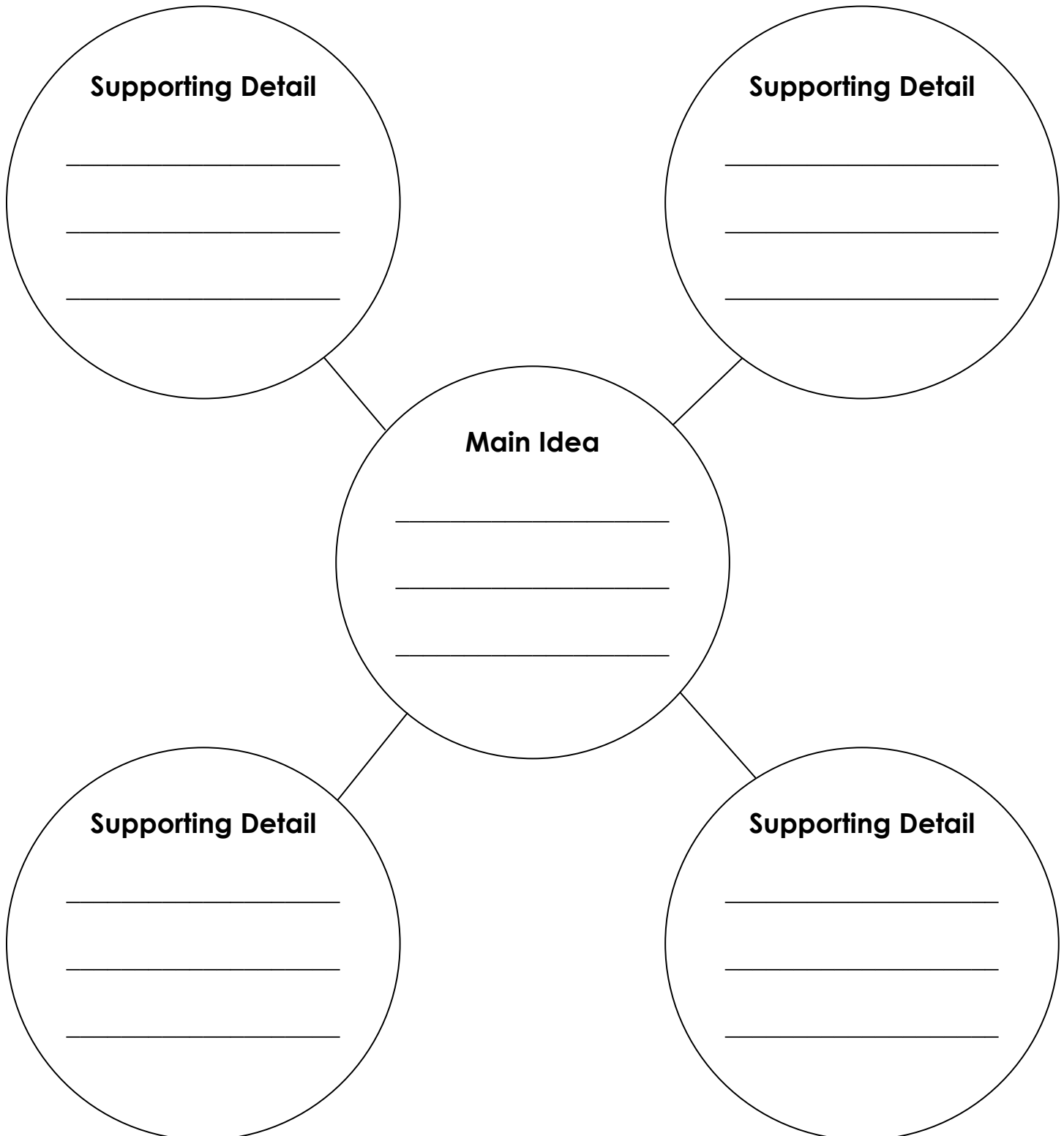
How do you know this is the main idea?

Which of the following details supports the main idea?

- a. It was warm in the winter, cool in the summer and always full of delicious smells.
- b. Thankfully, the Mouse family was clever.
- c. One day, Mr. Smith spotted the mice near the pantry.

What is another detail that supports the main idea?

4. Use your answers to help you fill out this Main Idea Organizer.
(You will need to find two more supporting details from the text!)



The diagram is a Main Idea Organizer. It consists of a central circle labeled "Main Idea" with three horizontal lines for writing. Four lines radiate from the central circle to four surrounding circles, each labeled "Supporting Detail". Each "Supporting Detail" circle contains three horizontal lines for writing.

Supporting Detail

Main Idea

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Answers

3. Then answer the following questions:

What is the story's main idea?

- a. Mr. and Mrs. Mouse, along with their three little mice, loved their home.
- b. They had been living there for years.
- c. The little mice loved the playroom.

How do you know this is the main idea?

Accept anything along the lines of: I knew this was the main idea because it is what the story is mostly about.

Which of the following details supports the main idea?

- a. It was warm in the winter, cool in the summer and always full of delicious smells.
- b. Thankfully, the Mouse family was clever.
- c. One day, Mr. Smith spotted the mice near the pantry.

What is another detail that supports the main idea?

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.

4. Use your answers to help you fill out this Main Idea Organizer. (You will need to find two more supporting details from the text!)

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.