

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.

Amanda had a beautiful voice that she kept to herself. She sang when she woke up, when she brushed her hair and even when she walked to school. Her voice was clear and always on tune. Amanda didn't sing for anyone else, though. She only sang for herself!

At recess, Amanda hummed while swinging on the swings. Her friend, Mia, ran over and said, "Wow, Amanda! You have such a pretty voice. You should sing for the class!"

Amanda shook her head quickly. "No way," she said. The idea of singing in front of other people made her stomach hurt.

At home, Amanda sang while helping her mom bake cookies. Her little brother clapped his hands and said, "You sound like the singers on the radio!" Amanda just smiled and kept singing softly. She liked her voice, but she didn't want anyone to make a big deal about it.

One morning, the music teacher, Ms. Harper, overheard Amanda singing quietly. "Amanda," she said, "your voice is lovely! Would you like to sing at the school concert next month?"

Amanda froze. "Oh... I don't think so," she said. Ms. Harper smiled kindly and said, "That's okay, but if you change your mind, let me know."

Amanda thought about it all day. She knew her voice was special, but she didn't feel ready to share it with a big crowd. That night, as she sang herself to sleep, she decided it was enough to just enjoy singing for herself.

Amanda had a beautiful voice, and that was something she didn't need to prove to anyone else.



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. At home, Amanda sang while helping her mom bake cookies.
- b. Amanda loved to sing.
- c. Amanda had a beautiful voice that she kept to herself.

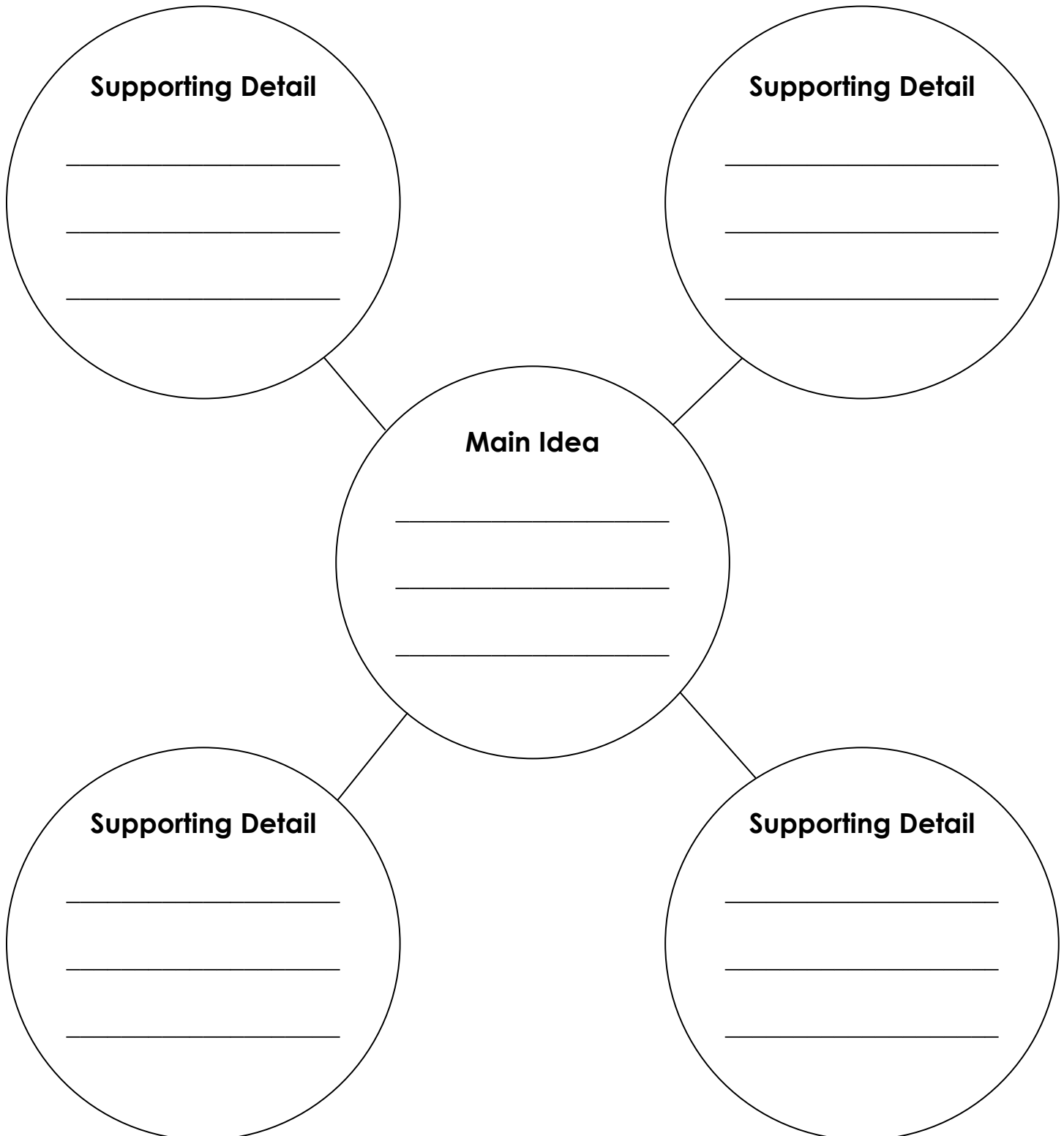
How do you know this is the main idea?

Which of the following details supports the main idea?

- a. Amanda froze.
- b. She knew her voice was special, but she didn't feel ready to share it with a big crowd.
- c. At recess, Amanda hummed while swinging on the swings.

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. This central circle is connected by lines to four surrounding circles, each labeled "Supporting Detail". Each of these four circles also contains three horizontal lines for writing. The circles are arranged in a diamond pattern around the central circle.

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. At home, Amanda sang while helping her mom bake cookies.
- b. Amanda loved to sing.
- ☒ c. Amanda had a beautiful voice that she kept to herself.

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. Amanda froze.
- ☒ b. She knew her voice was special, but she didn't feel ready to share it with a big crowd.
- c. At recess, Amanda hummed while swinging on the swings.

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.