

Supporting details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

The **main idea** is what a text is mostly about.

The **supporting details** explain or describe the main idea.

The Belling of the Cat

Long ago, the mice used to hold meetings to discuss problems in their community. Sometimes, the mice talked about problems finding food. Other times, they talked about their favorite cheese. On this particular day, the mice held a general meeting to discuss what they could do about their enemy, the Cat. Some said this, and some said that. Everyone had different ideas, and yet no one seemed to agree. At last, a young mouse got up and said that he had an idea that would solve everything.

“You will all agree,” he said, “that the real problem is the sly way the Cat sneaks up on us. She moves so silently that we never know when she is around. We never know when she will pounce on us from behind. Now, if we only had some warning that she was coming, we could easily escape from her. So, what I suggest is that we find a small bell, and simply tie it with a ribbon around the neck of the Cat. This way, we will always know when she is coming, and we can easily run away and hide.”

All the mice clapped, and some stood up and cheered. They started to get ready to leave. Then, an old mouse went up to the front of the room. He pounded on a table to get everyone’s attention.

“This is all very well,” the old mouse said. “But WHO will place the bell around the Cat’s neck?” The mice all looked around at one another and nobody spoke.



1. What is the **main idea** of this story?
 - a. The young mouse will tie a bell around the Cat's neck so they can hear him coming.
 - b. The mice want to hide from the Cat.
 - c. The mice held a meeting to discuss what they could do about their enemy, the Cat.

2. What is one **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe this main idea?
 - a. "You will all agree," he said, "that the real problem is the sly way the Cat sneaks up on us."
 - b. Sometimes, the mice talked about problems finding food.
 - c. Long ago, the mice used to hold meetings to discuss problems in their community.

3. What is a second **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

4. What is a third **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

Answers

1. What is the **main idea** of this story?
 - a. The young mouse will tie a bell around the Cat's neck so they can hear him coming.
 - b. The mice want to hide from the Cat.
 - c. The mice held a meeting to discuss what they could do about their enemy, the Cat.

2. What is one **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe this main idea?

- a. "You will all agree," he said, "that the real problem is the sly way the Cat sneaks up on us."
- b. Sometimes, the mice talked about problems finding food.
- c. Long ago, the mice used to hold meetings to discuss problems in their community.

3. What is a second **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary.

4. What is a third **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary.