Main Idea

Read each paragraph and choose the main idea.

I have a dog named Boots. I taught him lots of tricks. When I tell him to, Boots will sit or lie down. He can also wave his paw to greet people. When I say, "Dance, Boots!" he will stand up on two legs and walk. I don't know of any dogs that can do such amazing tricks.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

a. Boots is my dog.
b. Boots can sit.
c. Boots is very smart.
d. Most dogs can't dance.

Yesterday was my birthday. When I woke up, I noticed a big sign that said, "Happy Birthday, Joey!" Mom made spaghetti for dinner. It's my favorite food in the whole world. My friend Dave came over and handed me a wrapped gift. I wondered what it was. It was a new basketball. I had a great day.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

a. Todd had a great birthday.
b. Joey had a great birthday.
c. Todd got lots of gifts.
d. Joey got lots of gifts.

Peter's parents bought a new carpet for the living room. Now he has to take his shoes off when he enters the house. He is not allowed to eat or drink in the living room anymore. Peter's furry dog isn't allowed to play ball in there either. When his parents got the new carpet, there were lots of new rules.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

a. Peter cannot go in the living room.
b. Peter's parents don't like the carpet.
c. Peter likes to make a mess.
d. Peter's parents made new rules so the new carpet stays clean.
My Phone
By Neal Levin

My phone has tons of gadgets,
A hundred-fifty rings,
Can store a thousand numbers
And other nifty things.

My phone can send me e-mail
And news from far away,
Predict tomorrow's weather,
And tell the time of day.

My phone can download music,
Take photos in a flash,
Make videos and movies,
And really make a splash.

I heard that in the old days
(I'm not sure what this means)
That people used their phones to talk
To other human beings.
My Phone
By Neal Levin

1. How many rings does the phone in the poem have?
   a. 1,005   b. 150
   c. 10,050   d. 1,500

2. According to stanza three, list two things the phone in the poem can do.

   ___________________________ and ___________________________

3. Can you think of something that the poet didn’t mention that people can do on their phones?

   ___________________________
   ___________________________

4. What do you think the poet means when he says:

   I heard that in the old days
   (I'm not sure what this means)
   That people used their phones to talk
   To other human beings.

   ___________________________
   ___________________________
My Phone
By Neal Levin

Match each vocabulary word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

1. ___ nifty  a. small, useful devices
2. ___ predict b. to collect and put in a location for future use
3. ___ gadgets c. quick and suddenly
4. ___ download d. an event that has been recorded so it can be watched later
5. ___ flash  e. to say that something might happen in the future
6. ___ store  f. to copy a file from a larger system onto a computer or other device
7. ___ videos g. very good or useful

◊ Now try this: Find all of the words above in the poem and highlight them.
Hunting for Shark Teeth
by Kelly Hashway

Trina squished her toes in the wet sand. She’d spent every morning that week searching the beach for a shark tooth. Everyone said Myrtle Beach was famous for shark teeth. But Trina hadn’t found a single one.

Something pointy and T-shaped caught her eye. She reached for it and held it up against the shark tooth necklace her parents had bought her at one of the tourist shops. It wasn’t exactly the same, but it kind of looked like a shark tooth.

“Did you find one?” her father asked.

Trina shrugged. “It looks like a shark tooth, but it might just be a seashell.”

“Let me see,” her father said, reaching for it. He brought it up to his face and turned it all around. Then he held it up to the sun and examined it some more. “It could be a shark tooth.”

Trina didn’t want to be unsure. She wanted a shark tooth. And not one that her parents bought at a store. She had to find one for herself.

Her father held it out to her. “Here.”

“If we can’t be sure it’s a shark tooth, then I don’t want it,” Trina said.

Her father patted her shoulder and put the possible shark tooth in his pocket. Trina
continued searching among the seashells. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw her father walk a little way down the beach. Trina searched and searched. But all she found were shells and a broken sand dollar.

"Trina, it's time to go in," her mother said, folding up the beach chair.

"Just a few more minutes," Trina said.

"Sorry, honey. We have reservations for brunch, and you need to get all that sand off you before we go."

Trina stood up and brushed the sand from her shorts. She'd be leaving in the afternoon, so this was her last chance to find a shark tooth. She stared at the beach and sighed.

"Trina!" her father said, running up to her. "I asked a few people on the beach if they thought this was a shark tooth and they all said it could be. I think you should keep it." He handed the tooth to her.

Trina ran her finger over the sharp point at the top. Maybe it was a shark tooth. Maybe it wasn't. Either way it was pretty cool looking, and she had found it herself.

"Yeah, I think I will keep it."

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About the Author

Kelly Hashway

Kelly Hashway's latest book, May the Best Dog Win, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. May the Best Dog Win. ISBN: 9780984589081
Hunting for Shark Teeth
by Kelly Hashway

1. On what beach does this story take place?

2. Which fact is true, according to the story?
   a. Trina already has a shark tooth.
   b. Trina has been searching for seashells.
   c. Trina has collected many shark teeth.
   d. At the end of the story, Trina knew she had found a real shark's tooth.

3. Is Trina on vacation, or does she live by the beach? Explain how you know.

4. Does this story take place in the morning or evening? Explain.

5. What type of story is this?
   a. science fiction
   b. biography
   c. fantasy
   d. realistic fiction
Hunting for Shark Teeth
by Kelly Hashway

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story.
Then, write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. __ __ a __ p
   hint: antonym for dull

2. __ a __ d __ __ l l __ r
   hint: a flat, round sea creature that lives in the sand

3. __ __ c k __ __
   hint: small bag sewn into clothing for carrying things

4. __ o u __ i __ t
   hint: person who is on vacation

5. __ __ c k __ __ c e
   hint: jewelry worn around the neck

6. __ __ u __ __ h
   hint: meal that is eaten in the late morning instead of breakfast and lunch

7. __ __ s e r __ __ i o __ s
   hint: special times for meals that are booked with a restaurant
Hunting for Shark Teeth
by Kelly Hashway

In the story, "Hunting for Shark Teeth," Trina is looking for a shark's tooth so she can keep it as a souvenir of her trip to Myrtle Beach.

Write a paragraph to describe a souvenir that you brought home from a special place. Tell what the souvenir is, where you got it, who you were with, what you were doing there, and why it is a special object.
High-Frequency Words  ·  Lesson 3

and    both    circle    family    go
pencil  she     talk     use     when

A Write a word from the box for each picture.

1. ________

2. ________

3. ________

4. ________

B Write a lesson word that fits in each shape.

1. ________

2. ________

3. ________

4. ________

5. ________

6. ________

C Write a lesson word for each clue.

1. Write a word that ends in ly. ________

2. Write a word that begins like pen. ________

3. Write a word that begins with wh. ________

4. Write a word that rhymes with me. ________

5. Write a word that has two sounds for “c.” ________

6. Write a word that ends with lk. ________

7. Write two words that begin with a vowel. ________

8. Write two words with long /o/. ________

Extra Practice  High-Frequency Words © 2010 by Linda Ward Wells,Newsletter.
D Read each sentence. Find and circle the word that best fits.

1. What is in the _____? a. use b. both c. circle
2. Is this your _____? a. eight b. family c. when
3. We will _____ to school. a. on b. by c. go
4. Jane _____ Ned are here. a. and b. been c. has
5. They are _____ new at school. a. your b. both c. and
6. _____ will you go to the house? a. What b. Find c. When
7. This _____ is red. a. pencil b. answer c. eight
8. Can we _____ a pencil for the test? a. has b. use c. by
9. We will _____ at school. a. circle b. said c. talk
10. Is _____ your sister? a. the b. she c. new

E Write a word from the pencil that rhymes with each word below.

![Pencil illustration] hen walk new he why hand so call

1. and ________ 2. go ________ 3. when ________
4. talk ________ 5. she ________

F Write yes or no to answer each question.

1. Does talk mean "speak"? ________ 3. Is a sister part of a family? ________
2. Does a circle have points? ________ 4. Can you use a pencil in school? ________
G Write an answer to each riddle. Use the words in the box above.

1. I stand for a girl’s name in a sentence. What am I? _______________________
2. I write on paper. What am I? _______________________
3. I link two words in a sentence. What am I? _______________________
4. I have no corners. What am I? _______________________
5. I am a group of relatives. What am I? _______________________
6. I am what you do on the phone. What am I? _______________________

H Read the paragraphs, then answer the questions.

The Tell family has a new house. Both Paul and Jill will go to a new school. Jill has not ever been to school. She and Paul talk:

“When will we go? When? When? When?” Jill runs in a circle.

“Can I use my new pencil at school?”

Paul smiles. “When you go to school, you will use it a lot.”

1. Who has just moved? _______________________
2. Who is older, Paul or Jill? _______________________
3. About how old is Jill? _______________________
4. Who is excited about school? _______________________
5. What does Jill have? _______________________
6. What will Jill do with her pencil? _______________________


Germ-o-rama
by Lydia Lukidis

Greetings! My name is Mr. Ash and I'm an itsy bitsy germ. At first I was living in Marcia's body. She didn't wash her hands after she went to the bathroom. Then she hugged her friend Sally. That's when I jumped into Sally's body.

Achoo!! Now I made Marcia and Sally sick!

Everybody gets sick sometimes. It's because of me and all the other germs. But what are germs? How do we make people sick?

Germs are everywhere. They are at your house. They are also in your school and even at the park. They are tiny and you can't see them with your eyes. You would need a microscope to see them. Some germs spread diseases. There are two main types. They are viruses and bacteria.

Bacteria are little creatures. They can live outside your body. They can also live inside you. Some bacteria are really nasty. They can cause infections. They can cause a sore throat, tonsillitis, ear infections or pneumonia.

Not all bacteria are bad though. Some kinds of bacteria are actually good for your bodies. They keep you balanced. For example, good bacteria lives in your intestines. They help your body digest food. Good bacteria are sometimes called "probiotics".

Viruses are a bit different. They can only live inside you to survive. They can also live in a plant or animal. Whatever they live in is called the "host."
They can spread and make you sick. They can cause yucky diseases like the flu, measles, and chicken pox. Good thing viruses don't live long.

So how do we germs get around? Easy! We surf around in the air through sneezes, coughs, or breaths. We also travel in sweat, saliva, and blood. Some of us, like me, can travel from one person to another if they touch each other. We can live on objects for a while, like a doorknob. When the next person touches that doorknob, poof! I jump into their body.

So how can you protect yourself against me and all my buddies? The best way is to practice good hygiene. This means keeping yourselves clean. That way you have less chance of getting sick. Here are some good tips for keeping us germs away: wash your hands with soap often; cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze; cover your mouth when you cough; use tissues to clean your nose.

If you do all these things, you will be prepared to battle germs like me!

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About the Author

Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Daily Bedtime Routine, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

1. List the two main types of germs.

____________________ and ____________________

2. In the article, you learned several characteristics of bacteria. Circle the characteristic of bacteria that was not mentioned in the article.
   a. Bacteria are creatures that can live inside and outside of your body.
   b. Bacteria cause diseases like the flu, measles, and chickenpox.
   c. Some kinds of bacteria are good for your body, like the ones that help with digestion.
   d. Good bacteria are also known as "probiotics".

3. Germs travel around in a lot of ways. In the box below, circle all the ways that germs are spread according to the article.

   - coughs
   - vitamins
   - sleeping
   - saliva
   - sneezes
   - vaccines
   - breaths
   - showering
   - sweat
   - blood
   - objects
   - smiles

4. Give one way you can protect yourself against germs. (Use a complete sentence.)

   __________________________________________

   __________________________________________

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