

# Main Idea

## 1. What can understanding the main idea of a text help you do?

- The main idea can help you find the author's point of view on a topic and their purpose.
- The main idea can help you make inferences and summarize information for class.
- The main idea can help you read faster because then you don't need to focus on any other details in the text .
- The main idea can help you learn a lesson, or better understand the author's perspective.

## 2. What is the main idea of the passage?

### The Origin of Deep-Dish Pizza

Deep-dish pizza is a popular style of pizza that originated in Chicago in the 1940s. It is characterized by its thick, doughy crust that is formed in a deep, round pan and filled with cheese, tomato sauce, and other toppings. The origins of deep-dish pizza can be traced back to a restaurant called Pizzeria Uno, which was opened by Ike Sewell and Ric Riccardo in 1943. Sewell wanted to create a pizza that was different from the thin, crispy pies that were popular in other parts of the country, so he came up with the idea of a deep-dish pizza that was more like a pie than a traditional pizza. Today, deep-dish pizza is a beloved Chicago tradition that has spread to other parts of the country and around the world.

- Deep-dish pizza is from a 1940s Chicago restaurant, Pizzeria Uno, and it is the best kind of pizza.
- Deep-dish pizza started in the 1940s in Chicago and was made by Ike Sewell and Ric Riccardo.
- Deep-dish pizza has a thick, doughy crust, lots of cheese, tomato sauce, and other toppings.
- Deep-dish pizza started in 1940s Chicago and has spread all over the world due to its popularity.

## 3. How can you best determine the main idea in fiction?

- Identify the genre of fiction you are reading, as well as what kinds of other stories the author has written.
- Use your close reading skills to examine the characters and the plot.
- Look for how the protagonist treats the other characters in the story and how they talk to the reader.
- Identify when and where the story was written and use that information to find the main idea.

## 4. What is the main idea of the passage?

### The Magic Garden

As a child, Maria had always been fascinated by the overgrown garden behind her grandmother's house. It was a wild, tangled mess of flowers and vines that seemed to grow endlessly, spilling over onto the lawn and the path that led to the front door. Her grandmother had always warned her to stay away from the garden, saying that it was too dangerous and unpredictable to explore. But Maria couldn't resist the lure of the garden's magic, and one day, when her grandmother was napping, she snuck out to take a closer look.

As she stepped into the garden, she felt a rush of excitement and wonder. The colors of the flowers were more vibrant than anything she had ever seen, and the vines seemed to twist and turn in intricate patterns, like they were alive. Maria wandered deeper into the garden, drawn by the sense of adventure and discovery. And then, suddenly, she heard a voice calling out to her.

"Who are you?" the voice asked, its tone soft and curious.  
 Maria looked around, but couldn't see anyone. "I'm Maria," she said. "Who are you?"  
 "I'm the garden," the voice replied. "I've been waiting for someone like you."

- The magic garden is an adventurous place where Maria will discover secrets and learn a lesson.
- The magic garden is a real place where Maria gets trapped in a wild tangle of flowers and vines.
- The magic garden is a made up place that Maria thought of in a dream to show how powerful imagination can be.
- The magic garden is an imaginary place created in Maria's mind because she misses her grandmother.

## 5. What is the main idea of the passage?

**The Misunderstanding**

Zahra and Priya had been friends since they were little. They did everything together - playing, exploring, and sharing secrets. But one day, they got into a pretty big fight. It started when Zahra borrowed Priya's favorite necklace without asking. Priya had noticed it was missing and when she found out Zahra had it, she got upset. Zahra didn't understand why Priya was so mad. She thought it was just a necklace and didn't think it was a big deal. The fight escalated quickly, and soon the two girls weren't talking to each other at all. They avoided each other at school and stopped hanging out together.

One day, Zahra decided to talk to Priya and try to make things right. "I'm sorry I took your necklace without asking," she said. "I didn't mean to upset you. I thought it was just a necklace."

Priya looked at Zahra, surprised by her apology. "It's not just a necklace," she said. "It's special because my dad found it for me before I moved here."

Zahra felt terrible. She had no idea the necklace was so important to Priya. "I'm so sorry," she said. "I had no idea. I would never have taken it if I knew."

Priya forgave Zahra, and the two girls were able to repair their friendship. They learned that it's important to communicate, and that even small things can mean a lot to someone else.

- Zahra and Priya have a fight about a necklace. In the end, Zahra gives it back and they stay friends.
- Zahra and Priya have a fight and are able to repair their friendship because Zahra gave the necklace back.
- Zahra and Priya show they aren't really good friends because friends shouldn't fight with each other.
- Zahra and Priya have a fight and are able to repair their friendship by understanding each other's feelings.

## 6. How can you look for the main idea in any text?

- Look up the author's biography to read about their background, then use that knowledge to identify the main idea.
- Read the first and last paragraphs to find the central topic of the text since that's where the author usually puts it.
- Look at the first sentence of each paragraph and the pronouns the author uses throughout the text.
- Read the text more than once while using your close reading skills to identify the main idea.

## 7. What are note-taking strategies you can best use to find the main idea in a text?

- You can read the text more than once while underlining and use close reading skills to pull out important details and make connections between what you find.
- You can read the text and make notes about key details. You should only read it more than once if you had to look up a word in the dictionary.
- You can read the text one time and underline key details. Then you should always summarize it and only make an inference if you think there is a big idea.
- You can read the text more than once and look up unfamiliar words. Then you should skip ahead to figuring out the author's purpose as a shortcut to the main idea.

**8. How can you best determine the main idea in nonfiction?**

- Look for the point of view and the author's purpose to figure out the main idea.
- Look for key vocabulary words that are used the most and the point of view.
- Look for the central message in the text by using all of your close reading skills.
- Look for scientific data, expert opinions, and facts that the author is trying to teach you.

**9. How can you know if you've identified the main idea of a text correctly?**

- You've made an educated guess based on the biggest vocabulary words the author uses throughout the text.
- You've worked through your close reading skills and made connections between what you've found from the text.
- You've found a sentence in the first and last paragraphs of the text that matches the main idea using similar words.
- You've read the passage more than once and used a couple of your close reading skills to take notes about the topic.

**10. Why is it important to identify the main idea of a text?**

- It helps you discover the hidden meaning the author hides in the text so that you can summarize it to a friend.
- It helps you understand the author's central message and what they want you to take away from the text.
- It helps you figure out the author's point of view and purpose so that you can explain the topic to someone else.
- It helps you summarize the key points of the author's message and make inferences using evidence from the text.