



Main Idea and Summarizing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 4

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence:

A passage about the water cycle has the main idea that clouds are white and fluffy.

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence:

When you summarize a fiction story, you should copy the dialogue word for word.

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: *The main idea of a paragraph is always the very first sentence.*

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. A _____ detail is one that is interesting but not needed to understand the main idea.
2. The main idea tells the _____ point the author wants readers to understand.
3. When you summarize, you should keep events in the same _____ as the original text.
4. Asking "What is this passage mostly about?" helps you find the _____ idea.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between a topic and a main idea?

2. Why should a summary be shorter than the original passage?

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence:

A passage about the water cycle has the main idea that clouds are white and fluffy.

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence:

When you summarize a fiction story, you should copy the dialogue word for word.

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: The main idea of a paragraph is always the very first sentence.

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

- 1. A minor detail is one that is interesting but not needed to understand the main idea.
- 2. The main idea tells the biggest point the author wants readers to understand.
- 3. When you summarize, you should keep events in the same order as the original text.
- 4. Asking "What is this passage mostly about?" helps you find the main idea.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. What is the difference between a topic and a main idea?

2. Why should a summary be shorter than the original passage?

