

Main Idea---Reading Skill of the Week

Main idea is finding what the article, selection, story, or paragraph, is mainly about. The main idea is the most important information about the topic. Students who are able to identify the main idea, are able to remember and retell what they have read.

Why teach main idea?

Students that are able to identify the main idea are able to remember and retell what they have read.

Strategies to find the main idea....

- Look at the title of the selection...this will provide the topic.
- The first or last sentence of a paragraph.
- The main idea CAN be one of the sentences in the paragraph. If there is not a main idea sentence, then figure out the main idea based on the details or information in the paragraph. Think about who or what the paragraph is about to find the topic. Then think about the most important information the author wants you to know about the topic.
- Write the main idea next to each paragraph. At the end of the selection, the most common main idea is the main idea of the selection.

*Visit Fcrr.org Comprehension section for grade level specific Main idea classroom activities.

Differentiated Instruction