

Name: _____

Date: _____

SAMPLE ANSWERS

Can You Spot the Main Idea?

The **main idea** is what the story is mostly about. You can find evidence in the story to help you determine the main idea.

Example: In the story *The Three Little Pigs*, the main idea is that the pigs build houses and the wolf blows them down.

Directions: Read the story and circle the main idea. Then, complete the sentences below.

It was the first week of school and Camilla's new teacher, Ms. Kim, told the class that they would be starting a writing project. She told everyone to take out a piece of paper and write a paragraph about their family. All of the kids started writing quickly, except Camilla. She just stared at her blank paper and didn't write anything. She didn't know much about her family because she just met them! Camilla used to live in China and she didn't have a family. But, just a couple of months ago, her dads came to China to adopt her. They signed some papers and asked her to join their family. Then, she moved to Pennsylvania to live with them and her new brother, Ben. She really liked her new home and her new family. But, she still didn't know what she should write about them. She stared at her paper again, and then she wrote, "I don't know much about my new family, but I am learning more each day. My dads like to cook and my brother makes me laugh!" Camilla smiled and decided that, when she got home, she would ask her family to help her finish her writing project.

1. The main idea is that Camilla is trying to write about her family.
2. I know this because in the story it said that her teacher told her to write about her family, but she didn't know what to write.



Today Mai-Ahn and Thien are at the zoo. They are excited to see lots of wild creatures. Mai-Ahn is looking forward to seeing the tigers, but Thien wants to visit the elephants first. They decide to flip a coin to decide. Mai-Ahn takes a quarter out of her pocket. She tells Thien that if it lands with the "heads" side facing up, they will visit the tigers first. But, if it lands on the "tails" side, they will go see the elephants. Mai-Ahn throws the coin into the air. When it lands on the ground, Thien calls out, "Look! It landed on tails!" Mai-Ahn is sad that she didn't win the coin toss, but she knows that they will see the tigers later. She picks up the quarter and puts it back in her pocket as she and Thien walk towards the elephants.

1. The main idea is that Mai-Ahn and Thien want to see their favorite animals at the zoo.
2. I know this because in the story it said that Mai-Ahn wants to see the tigers and Thien wants to see the elephants.