



Supporting details

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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The **main idea** of a story is what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The **details** are *small pieces of information* that make the story more interesting.  
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As you read this story, think about what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The Father and His Sons

A father had four sons who were always arguing. If one son said the sky was blue, another would say it was green, another would say it was red, and another would say it was yellow. And so it would go on until it was night and the sky was black.

The father gathered a bundle of sticks together. He tied the bundle around with rope. Then he called to his sons. He told them to break the bundle of sticks in two. Each son was sure that he could break the bundle, and they began to argue about who was the strongest, until the father put the bundle into one son's hands. The son tried and tried, but he could not break the bundle of sticks. One by one, the others tried, but none of them could break the bundle of sticks.

The father took back the bundle. He untied the rope and handed a few sticks to each of his sons, and the sons broke these easily. The father held up the last of the sticks, and cracked in over his knee with ease. "My sons," he said, "if you are of one mind, and unite to help each other, you will be like the bundle of sticks, and no one will be able to harm you. But if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

1. What is this whole story *mostly about*?
 - A. The father wants to punish his sons.
 - B. The father wants to teach his sons a lesson.
 - C. The father wants his sons to help him with the chores.

2. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. The sons would argue all day about unimportant things.
 - B. The sons refuse to do their chores.
 - C. The sons play tricks on each other.
3. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. The first of the four sons was able to break the bundle of sticks.
 - B. The last of the four sons was able to break the bundle of sticks.
 - C. Each son was sure he could break the bundle, and they argued about who was the strongest.
4. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
- A. The father broke the bundle of sticks, and then untied the rope.
 - B. The father handed a few sticks to each son, and they broke these easily.
 - C. The father told his sons a story to teach them a lesson.

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5. What is another *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?

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6. How do the details in this story make the story more interesting?

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## Answer Key

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as, the sons arguing all day, until it became night.
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, it is interesting to picture the father cracking the last stick over his knee with ease.