



Supporting details

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

The **main idea** is what a text is mostly about.

The **supporting details** explain or describe the main idea.

The Father and His Sons

A father had four sons. When his sons were young, they were good friends. Sadly, something changed when they got older. Now, they are 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. Their arguing would start in the morning and go on until it was night and the sky was black.

The father became tired of listening to his sons fight. He went into the forest behind his home. He gathered a bundle of sticks together and tied the bundle with rope. Then he called 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. Eventually, 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 them easily. The father held up the last of the sticks and cracked it 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 a bundle of sticks and no one will be able to harm you. If you are divided among yourselves, though, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."





1. What is the **main idea** of this story?
 - 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. What is one **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe this main idea?
 - a. A father had four sons.
 - b. When his sons were young, they were good friends.
 - c. The sons' arguing would start in the morning and go on until it was night and the sky was black.

3. What is a second **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

4. What is a third **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?



Answers

1. What is the **main idea** of this story?
 - 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. What is one **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe this main idea?
 - a. A father had four sons.
 - b. When his sons were young, they were good friends.
 - ☒ c. The sons' arguing would start in the morning and go on until it was night and the sky was black.

3. What is a second **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary.

4. What is a third **supporting detail** that helps explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary but must be taken from the text.

How does this detail help explain or describe the main idea?

Answers will vary.