



LITERACY SKILLS TOOL KIT

SKILL FOCUS: MAIN IDEA

What: The main idea is the key concept that the author wants to communicate in a text. It's the message that ties together all the details and supporting information.

Why: Identifying the main idea helps students understand the purpose of what they're reading, whether it's a paragraph, article, chapter, or entire book.

How:

- Distinguishing between important information and minor details
- Recognizing how details relate to the key concept
- Understanding the author's purpose and perspective



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:

Fiction Books:

What is your book mostly about?
What is the problem?
How does the story end? How does this connect to the problem?
Can you think of one word that fits with this story?

Non-Fiction Books:

What did you learn after reading these paragraphs/pages?
What are three facts that fit together? How do they fit?
What do all of those facts have in common?
In your own words, what is this about?

SEPTEMBER RESOURCES

- Explore the [reading curriculum](#) your child will experience at school this year (Unit 1).
- Tips for [Reading with Your Child at Home](#)



LITERACY ACTIVITIES

- Go on a StoryWalk through the Springfield-Greene County Library! [This month's walk is: All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold at the Fairbanks Community Hub.](#)
- Attend a [SPS University event](#) at your child's school, and visit their classroom and school library. Ask your child questions about what they are learning about reading and writing.



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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:

Fiction Books:

- If you had to summarize this story in one sentence, what would you say?
- What do you think is the most important problem or conflict the main character faces?
- If this story had a moral or lesson, what do you think it would be?

Non-Fiction Books:

- What's the central topic this text is trying to explain or discuss?
- If you were to write a headline for this text, what would it be?
- What's the most important information you learned from this passage, and why do you think the author wanted to convey it?



LITERACY ACTIVITIES

- Participate in a Springfield-Greene County Library Event!
 - September 26:
 - Teen Book Club: The Inheritance Games
 - Friends of the Library Book Sale
 - Teen Night!
- Attend a SPS University event at your child's school, and visit their classroom and school library. Ask your child questions about what they are learning about reading and writing.

RESOURCES

[Reading with Your Student at Home](#)



Learn more and get access to reading resources at sps.org/readtosucceed

Share how you are reading to succeed on socials #SPSReadtoSucceed