

## Main Idea Quiz

Read the story and then choose the letter of the best answer.

### Lupita and Maxi

Lupita's dog, Maxi, had trouble learning tricks. She could roll over, and she could stand on her hind legs. However, Maxi always got the tricks mixed up. She stood when Lupita said roll over, and she rolled over when Lupita said stand. One evening Lupita decided that Maxi needed to practice, so she stood before Maxi and said, "Roll over, Maxi."

1. What is the main idea?

- (a) Lupita stood before Maxi.
- (b) Maxi could stand on her hind legs.
- (c) Maxi could roll over.
- (d) Maxi had trouble learning tricks.

### Amanda Keeps Trying

Amanda wanted to learn to do cartwheels, so her brother made a deal with her. "Do two cartwheels in a row and you may borrow my roller skates," said William. He watched Amanda practice her cartwheels, and he grinned each time she fell over. Finally Amanda said, "I will try just once more." Then she did two cartwheels without falling.

2. What is the main idea?

- (a) William grinned at Amanda.
- (b) Amanda wanted to do cartwheels.
- (c) William had roller skates.
- (d) William watched Amanda practice her cartwheels.

### Arthur's Castle

Arthur made a castle out of rocks and glue. First he collected pebbles of just the right size. Then, after his mother helped him draw designs for the castle, Arthur began to glue the pebbles together. He made a courtyard so he could reach inside the castle. He could put toy soldiers in the courtyard, too. When the castle was finally made, Arthur brought it to school in his wagon.

3. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Arthur made a castle out of rocks and glue.
- (b) Arthur brought his castle to school.
- (c) Arthur's castle had a courtyard.
- (d) Arthur's mother helped him draw designs for a castle.

### **The Ferris Wheel**

Mimi and Hank took their seats on the Ferris wheel. Mimi grabbed her friend's hand because she was scared and wanted something to hold onto. They both gasped as the Ferris wheel lifted them high into the air. The fair below looked like a toy village. "This is terrific! Why didn't I try it before?" Mimi shouted happily. After the ride ended, they hurried back to buy two more tickets.

4. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Mimi and Hank hurried to buy two more tickets.
- (b) The fair looked like a toy village.
- (c) The Ferris wheel was terrific.
- (d) Mimi and Hank rode the Ferris wheel at the fair.

### **The Shopping Trip**

Mrs. Quinones sent Angelina on a shopping trip. "I need eggs, sugar, and tomatoes," she told Angelina. "And please don't forget the eggs!" Angelina spent a long time in the store looking at shelves filled with cookies, ice cream, and cakes. Then she tried to remember what her mother had asked her to buy. Mrs. Quinones peeked in the grocery bag that Angelina brought home with her. "I knew it," she sighed.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Angelina spent too much time looking around and forgot what her mother wanted her to buy.
- (b) Mrs. Quinones needed eggs, sugar, and tomatoes.
- (c) Angelina looked at cookies, ice cream, and cakes in the store.
- (d) Mrs. Quinones was too busy to go to the store.

### **Charlie and the Cello Class**

Charlie left school and started walking to his music teacher's house. He had a cello class at three o'clock. Charlie stopped to talk with some friends. They kicked a soccer ball around for a few minutes. As they played, Charlie saw that the sun was behind a dark, thick cloud. Suddenly Charlie remembered his class, so he hurried to his music teacher's house. When he got there, Charlie was soaked.

6. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Charlie left school and walked to his cello class.
- (b) Charlie almost forgot about his class because he stopped to play soccer.
- (c) There were dark clouds in the sky.
- (d) The cello class was at three o'clock.

### **At the Museum**

Scott thought museums were boring and walking through museums usually made his feet hurt. On a Saturday afternoon Scott's father took him to a huge one in the city. They walked past rows of shiny rocks. "Can we go home now?" Scott asked. Then they went into the Hall of Dinosaurs. Scott gasped. The enormous skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex was standing before him. Scott spent an hour looking at the dinosaur.

7. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Scott went into the Hall of Dinosaurs.
- (b) The Tyrannosaurus Rex was enormous.
- (c) Walking through museums made Scott's feet hurt.
- (d) Scott didn't like museums until he saw the dinosaurs.

### **Samantha and Her Camera**

Samantha's parents gave her a camera for her birthday. Her mother said, "You should only take pictures of things that you want to remember." Samantha took her camera and went outside for a stroll in the neighborhood. She saw an old man playing an accordion. A few weeks later, Samantha's mother held up a photograph and smiled. "When did you take this terrific picture of the old man?" she asked.

8. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Samantha's parents gave her a birthday party.
- (b) A few weeks later, Samantha's mother saw her pictures.
- (c) Samantha took a picture of something she wanted to remember.
- (d) The old man was playing an accordion.

### **Ruben's Minnows**

Ruben went to the pond and filled an empty pail with water. Then he caught some tiny minnows with his hands. "I'll keep them in my room and watch them swim around," he said. Ruben started to carry his pail home, but then he decided against it. He carefully returned the minnows to the pond since that was their real home. He also knew they'd be happiest there.

9. What is the main idea of this story?

- (a) Ruben's pail was full of water.
- (b) Ruben caught some minnows at the pond.
- (c) Tiny minnows lived in the pond.
- (d) Ruben started to carry his pail home.

### **Stuart's Room**

Stuart decided to change the order of his room. First he dragged a chair and a small table across the floor. Next he moved his toy box in front of the closet. Then he moved the box again since it looked funny and it was in the way. Stuart looked at his new arrangement. "It was better before," he sighed.

10. What is the main idea?

- (a) Stuart looked at his new arrangement.
- (b) Stuart moved his toy box in front of the closet.
- (c) Stuart dragged a chair and a table across the floor.
- (d) Stuart decided to change the order of his room.

### **One Rainy Afternoon**

Paco and Tony made up a game one rainy afternoon. Each boy had to pretend to be an animal while the other guessed what he was. Tony was a lion because it was his favorite animal and was easy to act out. Paco wanted to be something really funny. Suddenly he remembered the monkey he had seen at the zoo.

11. What is the main idea?

- (a) It was raining outside.
- (b) Paco and Tony made up a game.
- (c) Paco wanted to be something funny.
- (d) Tony was a lion.

**Debra wrote a story about her first garden. Read the details in each paragraph. Then find the best main-idea sentence. Choose the letter of the best answer.**

**12.** We bought many seeds. I picked out a small wire fence.

- (a) We looked at pretty flowers and plants.
- (b) I helped Mom shop for our first garden.
- (c) The people helped us.
- (d) A new garden shop opened downtown.

**13.** They put a shovel in the trunk of our car. They put a rake in the trunk.

- (a) They put the bag of soil in the trunk.
- (b) The workers put our things in the car.
- (c) Mom carried the potted plants.
- (d) I carried the seeds in a small paper bag.

**14.** First, we gathered all the tools. Next, we dug up the soil.

- (a) Mom and I worked hard all day.
- (b) Then, we pulled up weeds.
- (c) We made holes in the soil.
- (d) Finally, we planted the vegetable seeds.

**15.** Our hands were muddy. Our knees were green and brown.

- (a) We wore work clothes.
- (b) There were rocks in Mom's shoes.
- (c) My hair was full of grass and twigs.
- (d) Mom and I were dirty.

**16.** I water the garden every day. Mom pulls up the weeds.

- (a) The vegetables have begun to grow.
- (b) Mom looks for bugs.
- (c) Maybe we will plant a garden next year.
- (d) We take good care of our first garden.