CLEVELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Grade 5
SUBJECT: Reading Comprehension
TOPIC: Main Idea and Supporting Details

TIP: Think about the supporting details to figure out the main idea. Ask, "What idea do all these details tell about?'

Every paragraph, story, or article that you read have a **topic**—what the piece of writing is about. The **main idea** is the most important idea that the writer wants you to remember about the topic. Recognizing the main idea can help you understand and remember what you read. Writers sometimes state the main idea in a **topic sentence**. A topic sentence can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a piece of writing.

Supporting details are smaller pieces of information that tell more about the main idea. As you read, use supporting details to help you identify the main idea.
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EXAMPLE: Read the poem below and conclude what is the main idea. Then identify the supporting details. Watch the video below to help you further understand this skill.

The Odor by Dr. Sharmane C. Miller



We detected a strange odor in class today
But no one even dared to say
That they spotted shoes off under the chair
And the stench was coming from right under there.

So we told our teacher to look beneath
The desks to see the exposed feet.
She looked real quick then held her nose
When she saw the ugly, smelly toes.



"Cover your feet," she demanded "right away
We don't want to die in here today."
So from further torture we were all saved
And no one entered an early grave.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Main Idea:

Supporting Details:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



LIVEWORKSHEETS