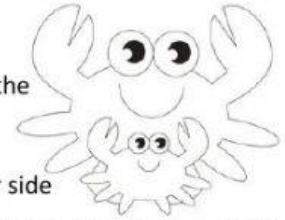
Main Idea and Supporting Details

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.

The Crab and His Mother



A Mother Crab was watching her son play on the beach. Like all crabs, the Young Crab walked along sideways. He walked along to the left, then he walked along to the right. The Mother Crab saw the lobsters on the other side of the beach. The lobsters were all walking straight forward. The Mother Crab said to her son, "Why do you walk sideways like that, my son? It would be much better to walk straight forward."

The Young Crab said to his mother, "That is true, dear mother. Show me how to walk straight, and I will follow your example." The Mother Crab tried and tried, but she could not walk straight forward. She finally gave up trying, when she saw how foolish she had been to find fault with her son.

1. What is this whole story mostly about? **A.** We learn best by example. **B.** The lobsters walked straight forward. **C.** The Young Crab learned to walk straight forward.

2. Which of these is a small piece of information that makes the story more interesting?

A. The Mother Crab walked up and down the beach, looking for her son.

B. The Young Crab walked along to the left, then he walked along to the right.

C. The Young Crab sat by his mother, watching the lobsters walking around on the beach.

3. Which of these is a small piece of information makes the story more interesting?

A. The Mother Crab laughed when she saw her son walking sideways.

B. The Mother Crab told the lobsters that it would be better if they walked sideways.

C. The Mother Crab told her son that it would be better to walk straight forward.

4. Which of these is a small piece of information that makes the story more interesting?

A. The Mother Crab showed the Young Crab how to walk straight forward.

B. The Mother Crab tried and tried, but she could not walk straight forward.

C. The Mother Crab asked the lobsters to show the Young Crab how to walk straight forward.

Taken and adapted from https://www.k5learning.com/reading-comprehension-worksheets/third-grade-3

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