

Name _____

Main idea; supporting details

I've Got Your Number!

Dan Doolittle is truly a dog lover. You could say it's his business to love dogs because Dan earns his money by dog-sitting. This week Dan's neighbors are on vacation so he is watching their dogs Buster, Mel, Little Bit, Tabitha, and Samantha. Dan is supposed to leave a note describing each dog's behavior for the week, but he's been so busy that he forgot to write a main-idea sentence.


Directions: Help Dan match each main-idea sentence with one of the five paragraphs below. Write the letter of the matching main-idea sentence in the space provided on the dog bowl.

Remember: A main-idea sentence identifies the topic of a paragraph. It ties the detail sentences together with the topic.


Main-Idea Sentences:

- A. Buster is basically just a big bully.
- B. Mel has been quite mischievous.
- C. A little bit lazy is how I'd describe Little Bit.
- D. Tabitha is a talkative tattletale.
- E. Samantha is supremely snobby.


1 She slept every day until 10:00 A.M. and couldn't manage to clean up her mess after finishing her food. Then one day after delaying our walk because of a three-hour nap, she insisted that she could go only as far as the fire hydrant at the corner of the block.




2 The first thing he did was to hide the Dandy Dog shampoo in the dishwasher. Then when I saw that someone had had an accident on the kitchen floor, he pointed his paw at one of the other dogs. Oh, and after I wrote this note, he attempted to tear it up with his teeth.



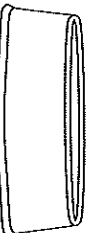
4 Fighting the others in order to be first in line for food was his favorite pastime. Then, on a picnic at the park, he terrorized a terrier and took her dog treat. But the last straw was when we went out for a walk. He bit Boo-Boo, your neighbor's dog.



5 It didn't take long to find out who hid the dog shampoo. She said she was determined that I should know so I could catch the culprit. She kept me up until 2:00 A.M. telling me about the time she got lost in Topeka. (It was *your* fault, of course!) Finally, I told her enough was enough when I saw her dashing off a note about my dreadful dog-sitting!



3 Talk about a temper! She practically bit my head off when I told her I couldn't comb her hair! When I told her the Dandy Dog shampoo was gone, she demanded I go buy some more. And boy, what a dazzling diamond she has on her dog tag!



Do you know a dog with a unique personality? Write a paragraph describing this dog. Be sure to include a topic sentence and three detail sentences that support your main idea.

Get The Hint?

Authors often don't tell you everything you want to know about a story. Sometimes you have to use sentence clues and your own experiences to figure things out for yourself. Read each of the sentences below. Use the clues that describe each situation to help you answer the question that follows it. Underline the clues; then write your answer on the line provided on each file folder.

1. The students in Mrs. Adams's class are helping her decorate for the upcoming month's holidays. They've put up red heart-shaped cutouts, pictures of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and biographical posters of famous African-Americans.

Question: For which month are the students decorating?

2. Jason was very excited about his new adventure. He quickly put on his goggles and fins, then jumped into the crystal-clear water.

Question: In what kind of adventure is Jason participating?

3. With her heart thumping, Leslie stepped up to the podium and shuffled the notecards in her hand. The audience quietly waited for her to begin.

Question: What is Leslie preparing to do?

4. The only sounds in the quiet room were the opening and closing of books, the shuffling of papers, and the occasional cough of an occupant. The rows of shelves were filled with an assortment of books, magazines, and reference materials.

Question: What type of room is this?

5. John knew he'd have to hide his mother's present. But where would he hide it? His mother would certainly identify the floral fragrance. He couldn't put it in a drawer—it would get crushed; besides that, he needed to keep it in water so it wouldn't wilt.

Question: What is the present John has for his mother?

6. "I can't believe your parents stuck you with that job again!" Chris said to his friend. "Think of all of the things you have to do—feeding, changing diapers, and reading a bedtime story. Yuck!"

Question: What job does Chris's friend have to do?

7. The man in the lab coat adjusted the lens of the microscope so he could clearly see the specimens wriggling on the slide. He told his assistant to hold all his calls so he could continue his work.

Question: What kind of work does this man do?

8. As the young girl rested her head on the cushioned seat, she was offered a drink and a snack. Suddenly there was an abrupt jerking movement and she noticed a flashing message that warned her to fasten her seat belt.

Question: Where is the young girl?

Bonus Box: Write a paragraph with a question like the ones above to give to a classmate. Be sure to include at least three clues to help your classmate figure out the correct answer.