

Name _____

Find the Hidden Message!

Directions: Each paragraph is like a short mystery story. Read carefully and **circle the correct main idea** from the three options given. One of them is the best summary of what the paragraph is mostly about. Put a ✨ star next to the sentence in the paragraph that helped you decide.



1. The Disappearing Sandwich - Lena placed her turkey sandwich on the bench while she tied her shoes. When she turned around, the sandwich was gone. A few crumbs led to a squirrel sitting nearby, nibbling something between its paws. Lena couldn't help but laugh, even though she was still hungry.

What's the main idea?

- A. Lena forgot to pack her lunch.
- B. A squirrel stole Lena's sandwich.
- C. Lena fed a squirrel on purpose.

2. The Case of the Missing Sock - Every time Marcus did laundry, one sock from a pair seemed to vanish. He searched behind the dryer, under the bed, and even inside the pillowcases. Eventually, he discovered a hole in the back of the dryer—his socks were slipping through and getting stuck inside the machine.

What's the main idea?

- A. Marcus wears strange socks.
- B. Marcus loses socks on purpose.
- C. Marcus found out why his socks kept disappearing.

3. A Noisy Night - Tara couldn't sleep. Her neighbor's dog barked every five minutes, a car alarm went off down the street, and her little brother was playing video games in the next room. She put a pillow over her head and tried to count sheep, but nothing helped. It was going to be a long night.

What's the main idea?

- A. Tara has a dog that barks a lot.
- B. Tara had trouble sleeping because of all the noise.
- C. Tara stayed up late on purpose.

4. The Secret Talent - During art class, Evan was quiet as usual. But when the teacher announced a drawing contest, Evan turned in a sketch that amazed the whole class. His drawing of a dragon looked like it could fly off the paper. Everyone clapped, and Evan finally smiled.

What's the main idea?

- A. Evan surprised everyone with his drawing skills.
- B. Evan got in trouble in art class.
- C. Evan copied a picture from a book.

5. The Mysterious Backpack - When Jenna got home, her backpack felt heavier than usual. She opened it and found an extra book, a lunchbox that wasn't hers, and a bright green folder. She had accidentally taken someone else's backpack from the classroom! She quickly called her friend Lily to check if they had switched.

What's the main idea?

- A. Jenna brought the wrong backpack home.
- B. Jenna lost her homework.
- C. Jenna forgot her lunchbox.