

A Blog for Busy Teachers

FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

Finding the Main Idea: Sample Exercises

Passage 1

Puggles make excellent pets. Even when they are very old, with their long ears and sweet faces, they are often mistaken for puppies. Bred from a pug and a beagle, puggles are full of energy and curiosity. They are also loyal and sweet dogs who love to snuggle and play. Chasing after a ball or looking for hidden treats are some of a puggle's favorite activities. They are also very intelligent, which means they are easily trained. Their fur is short, so they do not need much grooming, but they do need frequent, long walks to help their curiosity not get the better of them!

Topic: _____

Main Idea:	Details:
	1. _____ _____
	2. _____ _____
	3. _____ _____



Passage 2

Millicent debated her options. She wanted to join the club of popular girls, but she knew becoming part of the group would come at a cost. It seemed to her that the girls in the group were never lonely; however, these girls also seemed afraid to be themselves.

Millicent valued her individuality and thought she might have to sacrifice it if she became a member of the group. Millicent also had close friends outside of the group and understood that she could no longer be friends with them if she joined. As Millicent reflected on the first week of school and all the events, she knew what she wanted to do. (Summarized from the short story "Initiation" by Sylvia Plath. Published: *Seventeen* January 1953: 64-5, 92-4.)

Topic: _____

Main Idea:	Details:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="873 1035 1406 1205">1. _____ _____<li data-bbox="873 1245 1406 1415">2. _____ _____<li data-bbox="873 1455 1406 1625">3. _____ _____

