

## Main Idea and Supporting Details: Lunch

- Invite students to share with you what "main idea" means.-(what the story is mostly about or the main purpose).
- Pull out the lunch bag and describe that today we will practice identifying main idea and details with the bag.
- Let them know that we are going to pretend the bag is like a reading passage. Since we haven't seen the contents inside, we really do not know what it holds. Just like if we did not read the entire paragraph or passage, we would not be able to know what it was about.
- Begin taking items out of the bag. As you do so, request that as the students remain quiet, they should be thinking about what the main idea or main purpose of all of the items inside the bag might be.
- Take the following items out of the bag, one at a time:
  - snack (small bag of cookies/crackers)
  - napkin
  - fruit
  - drink.

Ask students what they predict the main idea of the bag could be (snack/ lunch). Remind them that we still cannot be sure because we haven't seen all of the items (which could be the same if we had not read all of the paragraph or passage).

- Remove the spoon. Ask them to think about what the spoon could be used for (yogurt, pudding, soup, etc..). Could this still be what they are thinking? Again, we cannot be sure b/c we haven't seen all of the items.
- Finally, remove the last item, the soup. Ask for a volunteer to share what the main idea of all of the items inside the bag would be, "Eating Lunch"
- Remind students that they need to see all of the contents in the bag and think about how they go together. Remind them that it is necessary to read through the entire passage or paragraph and think about all of the sentences together (not focus on first or second sentence only).
- Discuss how each of the items are the details that support the main idea.
- Discuss how the soup is the detail that best supports the main idea and why.
- Have them complete worksheet and discuss answers.
- Reinforce the important points.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The main idea of the items inside this bag would be

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Details

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The detail that best supports the main idea of the items inside this bag is \_\_\_\_\_.

This detail best supports the main idea because

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Important Points!

- ◆ Read the entire paragraph or passage to find out the main idea. Do not just stop after the first, second, or third sentence if there is more!
- ◆ Think about how the sentences relate to one another. Is there something that is common between all of them?
- ◆ Think about how the details support the main idea.
- ◆ Read the questions completely and answer what they are asking. Pay special attention to those underlined and **boldfaced** words!
- ◆ It is important that when asked, you think about what detail **best supports** the main idea (which detail is the most important detail and why).