

Objective: Identify the main idea and supporting details in different texts.

GSE: Can identify the main ideas and details in simple, structured texts on familiar topics, if guided.

Read It Right!

Main Idea and Details

All texts (stories, articles, passages, paragraphs, etc.) talk about something. The focus of a text or what it is about is the topic. The topic can be a person, a place, or an idea. The most important point or key concept is the **main idea**. The main idea may or may not be explicitly stated in the text.

Details are facts, reasons, descriptive information, and examples that develop the main idea, make it stronger and help us understand it.

Vocabulary

attend	ghost
chance	manage (to)
depressed	skill
feed	turn into

Do you know these words? You can use the Glossary at the end of your book.

- 1 Read the title of the text and look at the picture. Is the text fiction or non-fiction?

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Around 1790 strange things happened in Sleepy Hollow, a small town near present-day Tarrytown, New York. The locals tended to believe in the supernatural and said the town was haunted. They talked about strange things they had seen. The most feared spirit was the legendary Headless Horseman. They believed he was the **ghost** of a soldier who had lost his head to a cannonball in battle. They said the Horseman was often seen roaming the town in search of his head by the church where he was buried.



One day Ichabod Crane came to Sleepy Hollow to be the schoolteacher. He was a superstitious lanky young man with narrow shoulders, big feet and a long, pointed nose. The school where he taught stood on a hill and looked somewhat creepy. The pay Ichabod received for teaching was small, but he **managed to** get by as in that part

of the country it was common that the children's parents **fed** and boarded the teacher in rotation. Besides, Ichabod, who prided himself on his magnificent voice, made extra money by giving singing lessons. On his arrival he never imagined what the future would hold for him.

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- 2 Read the text and underline the correct options.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Topic	Main Idea
a a schoolteacher	a the strange things that happened in Sleepy Hollow
b Sleepy Hollow around 1790	b what happened to the Headless Horseman
c a soldier who died in the war	c Ichabod's life in Sleepy Hollow

3 Match the details with the elements in the legend they refer to

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a a small town near present-day Tarrytown, New York | _____ the Headless Horseman |
| b a soldier who lost his head to a cannonball | _____ the school Ichabod worked in |
| c a lanky young man with narrow shoulders, big feet, and a long, pointed nose | _____ Sleepy Hollow |
| d It looked somehow creepy. | _____ the teacher |

4 Read the next part of the legend and underline the main idea in each paragraph.

One of Ichabod's students was Katrina Van Tassel. She was a beautiful 18-year-old girl, daughter of the town's richest man. He was soon attracted by her beauty, and he also saw marrying her as a **chance** to get rich.

He quickly tried to win her hand in marriage. But Ichabod was not alone in his intentions. Katrina's beauty and wealth had interested other men in the village, especially the village bully Abraham Van Brunt, also known as Brom Bones.

Brom was known for his strength and great **skill** at horseback riding. This had **turned** him **into** some kind of a village hero. He had already scared off many of Katrina's other suitors, but Ichabod had smartly avoided physical confrontation with him.

With no alternative, Brom turned to his next best skill—pranks. He filled the school house with smoke, trained a dog to follow Ichabod around howling, and played many other pranks to frustrate and humiliate Ichabod.

One day, a messenger came to the schoolhouse to invite Ichabod to a party at the Van Tassel's. Ichabod and many villagers **attended** the party, including Brom Bones.



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5 Use the color code to circle an example of the following type of details.

An example:

A description:

A reason:

6 Match the words with their synonyms.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| a skill | _____ went |
| b attended | _____ succeed |
| c turned into | _____ ability |
| d manage to | _____ changed into |



By Yourself

- 7 Read the next part of the legend and underline at least three details that describe Ichabod's feelings at different stages of the text.

Brom Bones captivated the locals at the party by telling ghost stories. The tale of the Headless Horseman was the center of conversation, and Ichabod was amazed by the story.

Ichabod had intended to propose to Katrina at the end of the party, so he stayed behind to talk to her.

However, Ichabod's attempt to secure Katrina's hand went badly; Katrina rejected him. When he realized he could not win her hand, he headed out into the woods to return home on his horse really **depressed**.

Although he found the path home, it was extremely dark. Ichabod tried not to get scared, but soon he saw a large, dark figure nearby. It did not respond to his call, but as he passed by, it started to move. It joined him riding a large, black horse and wearing a cloak. Ichabod was terrified. He noticed that the rider was headless, and the head seemed to be sitting on the saddle in front of the man. Ichabod tried to get his horse to go faster without success, and since he was not a skilled rider, the horse constantly resisted.

Finally, they got to the church, where the ghost was said to disappear and Ichabod felt relieved. He was safe.



Reader's Coach

The main idea in a text may or may not be explicitly stated. Sometimes details and other information included help infer it.

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- 8 Read the statement and circle the option that describes the main idea in the passage. Then, write two events from the text that support your choice.

Ichabod
had I did not have
a successful evening.

<input type="radio"/>	a	
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	b	
<input type="radio"/>		

Word Power

- 9 Find words in the texts with the following meanings.

a was able to: _____

b became: _____

c gave food: _____

d were present: _____

e aptitude: _____

f feeling sad: _____

g opportunity: _____

h spirit: _____

Comprehension Check

10 Answer the questions about the text on page 8.

a What did Ichabod try to do at the party?

b What terrified Ichabod on his way back home after the party?

Comprehension Skills Practice

11 Work in pairs. Use your own words to complete the sentences that summarize the main ideas in the text in Activity 7.

a Brom Bones was the center of attention at the party by _____.

b Ichabod tried _____ Karina, but _____.

c On his way home, Ichabod saw a _____. It had no _____.

d When they got to the church, Ichabod felt _____ because _____.

12 Add details to expand each of the ideas in Activity 11.

a	
b	
c	
d	

Amazing Info

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow was published in 1820 and has remained very popular, especially during Halloween. It was made into a famous movie by Tim Burton in 1999.

13 Read the end of the legend and complete the graphic organizer below with your opinions.

Ichabod crossed the bridge in front of him and looked back, but he saw that the Horseman, instead of disappearing, threw his detached head at him. The head knocked Ichabod off of his horse.

Ichabod Crane was never seen again in Sleepy Hollow. With his mysterious absence, Katrina accepted Brom Bones' proposal, who many thought knew something about what had happened because he laughed whenever the subject of Ichabod's disappearance was mentioned.

The only traces of Ichabod ever found were his horse, saddle, hat, and a mysterious smashed pumpkin next to them. Who was the Headless Horseman? Was it Brom Bones, using his size to impersonate the ghost and scare Ichabod out of town, using a pumpkin to represent the separate head? Or was Ichabod Crane killed by something dark and supernatural?

The answer was never found. Some people say he went to another town and married a rich widow, but the old women of Sleepy Hollow insist that the Headless Horseman got him.



1

Which of the possible reasons suggested for Ichabod's disappearance do you most agree with? Why?

How much did Brom Bones have to do with the incident?

How could Ichabod have avoided all of his problems?

Connecting Ideas

Do you know any other legends about ghosts? In your notebook, write the plot of another story or legend you know about ghosts or afterlife beings. Share your stories in small groups.

1 Read the passage and circle the best title for it.

- a Halloween at Rocky Hill b A Dangerous Encounter
c The Vanishing Girl



One night of Halloween in 1925, Jeff Sanders was driving his car near a tunnel when he saw a woman in a white evening dress signaling for help. Sanders picked her up, and the woman, who looked frightened, said she needed to get home to Rocky Hill, since her mother would be worried. She **provided** her home address, but

when Sanders arrived at the house, the girl had vanished. Still, Sanders decided to go knock on the door. An old woman answered. After hearing Sander's story, she told him that her daughter, Amanda, had been killed in an accident at the tunnel two years earlier. Apparently, Sanders was not the first person who had **shown up** at Amanda's house to describe such an experience. While the story sounds like a folk tale, researchers have uncovered a death certificate of a 19-year-old Rocky Hill girl named Amanda, who died in a car accident on December 31, 1923. The story of Amanda continues to live on.

2 Match the beginning of the possible conclusions to the story in Activity 1 with their endings.

- a As it was Halloween, someone... _____ so her ghost hitchhikes on Halloween.
b Amanda could never get back home... _____ to gain popularity among his friends.
c Jeff Sanders invented the story... _____ pretended to be Amanda to play a joke on Jeff Sanders.

3 Put a check (✓) next to the information that is not included in the text in Activity 1.

- ☐ Who the woman was. ☐ Why she looked frightened.
☐ Where she lived. ☐ If other people had seen the woman too.

Objective: Use clues given in a text or story and background knowledge to draw conclusions.

CSE: Can make simple inferences about characters' motives and feelings in straightforward narrative texts and infer unstated information in simple texts.

Read It Right!

Drawing Conclusions

When we read a text, the author does not always tell us everything. The author may leave out details on purpose, and invite the readers to draw their own conclusions. This can happen for example when the author wants to create suspense. In order to **draw conclusions** and fill in the information gaps in a story or text, we usually use the clues included in it and what we already know (information we have learned elsewhere and our life experiences). When drawing conclusions, there can be more than one correct answer.

Vocabulary

beat	provide
charming	realize
ground	show up
heavily	toward

Do you know what these words mean? If necessary, check the Glossary at the end of your book.

Amazing Info

Urban legends are a form of modern folklore. They are stories told as true experiences ("It happened to a friend of a friend") which have scary or funny elements and exist in many versions.

4 Read the text and circle the main characters in the story.

Wendy and Tristan ran through the dark caves trying to get away from the evil monster that had been chasing them. They knew there was some way out of the network of chambers; however, they were uncertain about which way to take. As they turned a corner, they entered a large cavern that had a golden lamp on the **ground**. They saw three separate wooden doors with inscriptions on them: the first said "**B. Lowe Ater**," the middle one had "**Comb U. Stion**" written on it, and the third one said "**Splen Ded Ear**." Unexpectedly, a **charming** genie came out of the lamp and its merry voice rang throughout the cavern. "You are looking to escape, aren't you? One of these doors will lead you to freedom, but I am forbidden to reveal which one. I can only say that one door will take you to the bottom of the sea, another into a frightening fire, and the other into a green prairie with grazing animals. Each door is logical to its end, but you must decipher the mystery and choose one quickly, as the evil monster will soon find you." With that, the genie whirled into the lamp again and disappeared as unexpectedly as he had appeared.



5 Write what each inscription means and match it with the end each is related to. Then, circle the door you think Wendy and Tristan chose.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| a B. Lowe Ater | _____ | _____ frightening fire |
| b Comb U. Stion | _____ | _____ prairie with grazing animals |
| c Splen Ded Ear | _____ | _____ bottom of the sea |

6 Unscramble and match the words in bold from the texts on pages 11 and 12 with their meanings.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| a s w o n h p u | _____ | _____ the surface of the earth |
| b m a r c h i n g | _____ | _____ gave someone something |
| c v o d p r i d e | _____ | _____ arrived somewhere |
| d d r u g o n | _____ | _____ pleasant or friendly |

By Yourself

7 Read the text and circle the best option below.

The text is an extract from a: **a** mystery novel

b fairy tale

c fable



Famous detective Jack Band got back to his hotel room late at night with his heart still **beating** really fast after such an exhausting day. He had first been hiding in the sugarcane plantation, under the sun, for hours waiting for some ferocious, **heavily** armed men to stop chasing him. Then, on his way back, he had miraculously succeeded in jumping from the helicopter he was in just before it exploded! Band opened the window, stretched out, and breathed the fresh air with relief.

He took a comforting shower, and before going to bed took his gun out of its holster and carefully put it under the pillow as he usually did. He was fast asleep in no time. However, he suddenly woke up and listened. There was a disturbing noise coming from the window and immediately Band **realized** someone was carefully moving behind the curtain. So he took his gun from under the pillow, got out of bed quietly, and moved slowly along the wall **toward** the window. He pulled the curtain back with one quick movement. "Kathy Cartright!" Band exclaimed, "What are you doing here?" "Jack, please, help me in! I must tell you something," Kathy whispered. Band put his gun down and helped Kathy in.

2

8 Based on Activity 7, circle T (True) or F (False). Then, write the letter of the clues that support your answers.

- a** Jack Band and Kathy Cartright are enemies.
- b** Band was expecting Kathy to arrive.
- c** At first, Band did not know who was entering his room.
- d** Kathy knows something important.

- 1 I must tell you something.
- 2 Band put his gun down and helped Kathy in.
- 3 ...he realized someone was carefully moving behind the curtain.
- 4 Kathy Cartright! What are you doing here?

T F
T F
T F
T F



Word Power

9 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

ground toward shown up charming realized provided heavily beating

- a The girl was so _____ that everybody liked her.
- b The soldiers were _____ armed.
- c He put the heavy box on the _____.
- d How strange, it's late and nobody has _____ at the party yet!
- e The man _____ his telephone number and e-mail.
- f He was frightened and his heart was _____ fast.
- g The woman immediately _____ that the man was lying.
- h He walked _____ us with a big smile.

Comprehension Check

10 Answer the questions about the text in Activity 7.

- a What made Jack Band's day exhausting?

- b What was he woken up by?

- c How did Kathy enter Band's room?

Comprehension Skills Practice

11 Discuss in small groups and draw your conclusions. Answer the questions.

- a Why does Band put his gun under his pillow every night?

- b Why did Kathy enter Band's room through the window?

- c Why did Band move the curtain with just one quick movement?

- d Why did Kathy whisper?

12 Reflect. Open your notebook and write some notes. Then, share with a classmate.

Were the answers from Activity 11 based on clues from the text or from your general knowledge?

13 Read the next part of the story and answer the questions. Support your answers with reasons.

"Come," said Band and rushed her without hesitation into the bathroom, where he closed the door and turned on the shower. "Now we can talk, tell me what's going on, Kathy," said Band, still whispering.

"This afternoon, as I was leaving headquarters, I received a confidential message from a reliable source which revealed that an undercover KGB agent, under the name of Hoffman, is staying in this hotel looking for you."

"I know that," replied Band. "So is a man called Stravinsky, an extremely wicked criminal who wears a black eyepatch. But, did your reliable source mention if Hoffman has a physical description of me?" Kathy told him the undercover agent didn't have the slightest idea what Band looks like; he only has Band's name. "Nonetheless, you must take all necessary precautions," she suggested.

"Thank you, Kathy, you've taken countless risks coming all the way here, but now you have to leave and you should stop worrying about me; I'll be fine."

Band cautiously turned off the shower and opened the bathroom door. Suddenly, a menacing voice emerged abruptly from the darkness of the bedroom. "This is not your lucky day, Mr. Band. Both of you, come here immediately, stand against the wall and put your hands up!"



2

a Whose voice emerged out of the darkness?

b How did the man find Band?

14 Answer the questions. Underline the clues from the text that support your conclusions or use your own knowledge.

a Why did Band turn on the bathroom shower?

b What feelings does Kathy have for Band?

Connecting Ideas

In your notebook, write about a situation (real or imaginary) in which you had to draw conclusions. Describe the evidence or clues you had, and how you drew your conclusions.