

Name: _____

Finding main idea

Main idea tells what a story or a paragraph is all about.

Read each paragraph and choose the main idea.

Mary had some homework. She sat by the desk to do her work. Tom, the cat, came in the room. Tom sat by Mary's feet. Mary saw a ball of cotton and had an idea. She said, "What a brilliant idea I have!" Mary sat on the floor across the cat. She rolled the ball of cotton towards the cat.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- a. Mary had homework.
- b. Mary had a cat, called Tom.
- c. Tom, the cat came in the room.
- d. Mary has an idea.

Mary did not think about her homework. The ball of cotton rolled across the floor. This pleased Tom. When Mamma came in the room, she said, "Mary, this will never do! You have not started your homework." Mamma looked at her. She was not pleased at all. Mamma shook her head. "The little girl who does not do her homework should never be allowed to play."

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- a. Mary rolled a ball of cotton.
- b. Tom is pleased.
- c. Mary did not think about her homework.
- d. Mamma was not pleased.

Which is a good title for this passage?

- a. The cat and the ball of cotton
- b. Idle Mary
- c. Homework
- d. Mamma Talks