

Name: _____

Finding main idea

The main idea tells what the whole story is about.

William Jones

"Mother, what are the clouds made of? Why does the rain fall? Where does all the rain water go? What good does it do?" Little William Jones was always asking questions. "I want to know," he said; "I want to know everything." His mother tried to answer all his questions. After he had learned to read, she taught him to look in books for that which he wished to know. "Mother, what makes the wind blow?"

"Read, and you will know, my child."

"Who lives on the other side of the world?"

"Read, and you will know."

"Why is the sky so blue?"

"Read, and you will know."

"Oh, mother, I would like to know everything."

"You can never know everything, my child. But you can learn many things from books."

"Yes, mother, I will read and then I will know."

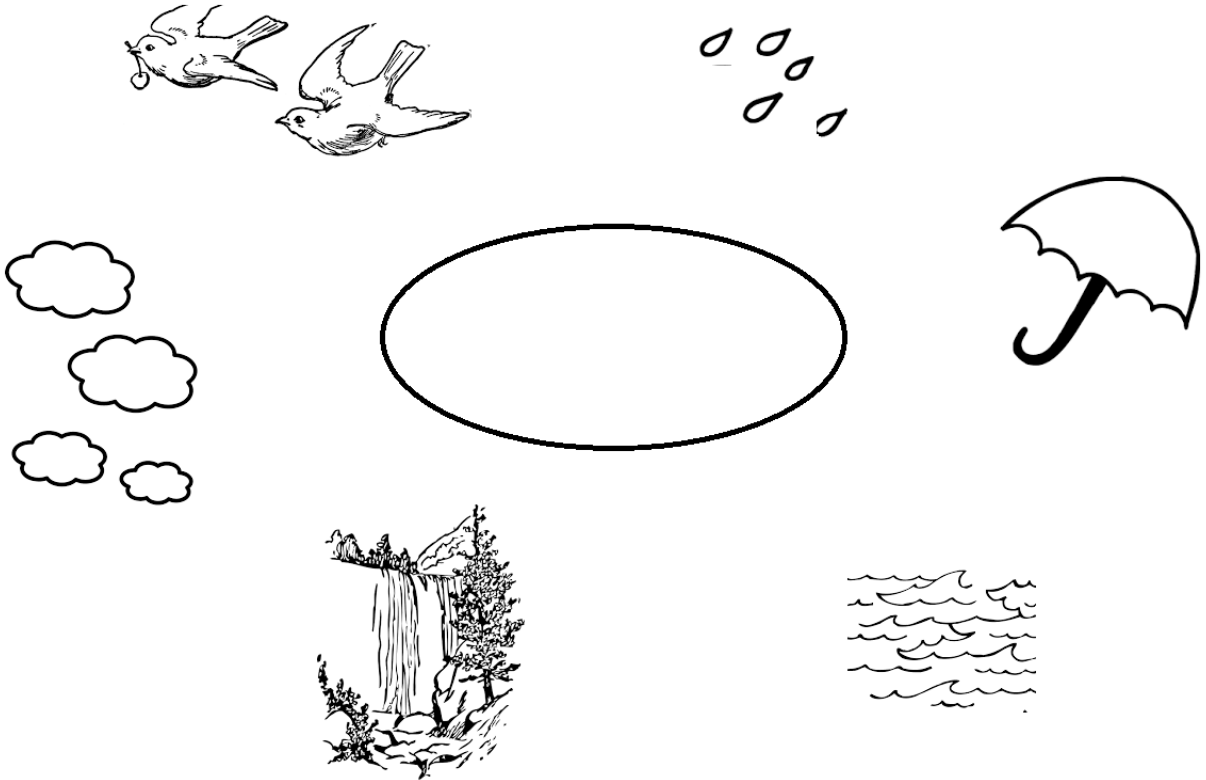
(Fifty Famous People by James Baldwin)



Name: _____

Finding main idea

Find the sentence in the story that tells the main idea. Write it in the circle below. Then draw a line from the main idea to all the things William asks about.



Write two questions about things you would like to know about?

Research you answers and present it to your class.