

Reading – Finding the Main Idea

Finding the main ideas in longer texts can often prove difficult for some children (and some adults for that matter). As your child is now engaging in more complex text types with a range of structures and features, differentiating between main ideas and supporting details can be challenging.

For this week's task, your child will keep a log of the main ideas from a text that they read over this homework period. This will require your child to draw from their ability to summarise what they read. A summary of text should aim to be a sentence (or two or three). If too many supporting details are recalled then it will take the form of a retell instead, which is a useful skill but not the focus of this task.

Firstly, you will need to work with them to determine a suitable text. Either a narrative chapter book or non-fiction text broken into sections will be fine. As they read, I recommend using sticky notes to enable your child jot down what key words and ideas that they will consider when forming their main idea sentence at the end of each chapter. J.K. Rowling often uses the titles of her chapters in the Harry Potter series to document such words, so this may spark an interesting discussion with your child if they are familiar with these texts.

At the end of each chapter, discuss with your child what the main idea/summary sentence could be. As this may be difficult for your child initially, prompting them with questions will be useful. Example prompts might be:

- What idea was the author trying to make sure that we get from this chapter?
- using the key words on your sticky note, say what happened in the chapter in only 1 or 2 sentences.

It is up to you and your child how they document their log of main ideas. Providing computer access is available, programs such as PowerPoint and Keynote are a great way to keep a digital log of their ideas.

Writing – Script Writing

For this week's writing task, your child will need to select a story that they have read. This may even be the same text as the one that they used for the finding the main ideas activity above. The only prerequisite will be that text needs to have some character speech as this will drive most of the task – to develop a script for a scene from the text.

Next your child will have to select an event from the story to develop as a script. They will also need to decide how to format their script. There are many examples of screenplay and script texts for them to view online.

Mathematics – Mathletics



Your child's classroom teacher has given them a username and password to login to Mathletics. This is a fantastic resource that our school is providing for free.

For this week's task, provide your child with a device and time to explore the platform and experiment with the challenges and games available.

To login to Mathletics on a computer, visit <https://login.mathletics.com> Alternatively, a free application is available on both the Apple and Google Play app stores for mobile devices. Simply search 'Mathletics Students' to access and download this version.