Back to Learning!

Literacy Activities

Ages 7 - 9

Context Clues & Finding the Main Idea and Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Context Clues</td>
<td>2–3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>More Context Clues</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Even More Context Clues</td>
<td>6–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Finding the Main Idea and Details</td>
<td>8–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Finding the Main Idea and Details</td>
<td>11–13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use this packet of activities to help children practice their Language Arts skills.
Day 1

Context clues are words in a sentence that give hints about a word’s meaning. You can use context clues to figure out the meanings of unknown words.

Chef Tina makes delicious spaghetti and meatballs.

Florida has tropical and sunny weather.

My mum was delighted when I cooked dinner for her.

“We your writing is acceptable,” my teacher said. “But I think you can do better.”

People think that house is haunted because weird sounds come out of there.

It was my chore to water the garden every day.

Some trees shed their leaves in the fall and become bare.

My 2 brothers always bicker over what TV show to watch.
Day 1 (continued)

Read the words in the Answer Box below. Write each word in the sentence that defines it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Box</th>
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<tr>
<td>ripped</td>
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<td>erase</td>
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1. There are _______ leaves on the tree in the summer. There are no leaves on the tree in the winter.

2. The sun is shining its __________, shiny light on us today.

3. I ___________ my jeans today. Now there is a big hole on my knee.

4. I put out my ___________ at night before I go to bed. This makes it easier to get dressed in the morning.

5. “Oh no!” I sigh. “I put down the wrong answer for #4. I better ___________ it and start over.”

6. Sam is ___________ of clowns. When he sees a clown, he hides.

7. My little sister, Mia, lost her first _________ today. She will put it under her pillow tonight.

8. When I turn 14, my mum will let me stay home __________. I will be all by myself in the house.
Day 2

Read the sentences. Write what the word in bold means. Use the Answer Box to help you. Circle the context clues in the sentences that help you understand the meaning of the word.

**Answer Box**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>very big</th>
<th>ends</th>
<th>cannot be seen</th>
<th>very hot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>special</td>
<td>very tired</td>
<td>joke</td>
<td>clean</td>
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1. My friend Liam keeps his desk very **tidy**. My desk is the opposite. My desk is very messy.

2. The **humongous** lake goes as far as I can see. It makes me feel small.

3. Ada was **weary** after the football game. She almost fell asleep in the car on the way home.

4. In the morning, my mum drops me off at school. Her car seems to **disappear** as she drives away.

5. “Today is the last day of year 6,” Becky thought. “It **concludes** my time at primary school.”

6. “It is almost 100 degrees outside today,” Malik says. “It is **boiling**!”

7. My **gag** at the beginning of the talent show got a lot of laughter.

8. The **precious** stuffed bear was given to me by my grandmother. I can’t sleep without it.
1. Mark __________ his grandmother on the weekends. He mows the lawn. He cleans the house. He cooks dinner.

2. The food pantry __________ food to many people. They hand out meals to anyone who wants one.

3. Sarah is very __________. She says hi to everyone in the hall. She also helps me with my homework.

4. Edinburgh is not close to Paris. It is __________ away.

5. “This building is __________!” I say as I look up. “There are over 15 floors.”

6. “The race __________ at 8 o’clock sharp,” my mum says. “We should leave at 7 so we aren’t late.”

7. In the morning, I brush my teeth. At night, I brush my teeth __________.

8. Today, my dog, Ruff, turns __________. We are throwing her a party!
Day 3

Read each sentence below. Circle the correct meaning of the bolded word.

1. I tore a hole in my jeans today at break.
   a. ripped
   b. wrote
   c. skipped

2. The hilarious show made me laugh and laugh and laugh.
   a. long
   b. funny
   c. short

3. I hope winter will end early this year. I am tired of the cold weather!
   a. wish
   b. call
   c. sing

4. My dog will chase after me when I run with her ball.
   a. bark
   b. jump
   c. follow

5. It is important to steer the boat on the lake. We will steer the boat around any other boats in the water.
   a. drive
   b. sleep
   c. paddle

6. The sluggish traffic crawled through the city making me late.
   a. slow
   b. scared
   c. fast

7. The car zooms down the street in a blur. It is the fastest car in our town!
   a. hops
   b. races
   c. walks

8. The petite baby sleeps in her crib. The small baby makes the crib look very big.
   a. big
   b. loud
   c. little
Day 3 (continued)

Read the sentences below. Write 1 or 2 words that define the word that is in bold. Circle the words in the sentences that you used as clues to find the meaning of the word.

1. My sister and I **stroll** along the path. We **stroll** slowly past 2 trees, 1 pond, and 3 squirrels. As we **stroll**, 2 runners and 5 bikers blast past us.

2. “Do you want to play tennis after school today?” my mum asks me. I pause for a moment to **consider** her question. “Yes! I will play after I do my homework.” I say with a smile.

3. “Brrrr,” my little brother, Mason, says. “It is **freezing** today! I need to put on my winter coat. And I need to wear my gloves and hat.”

4. The rubbish smells **foul**. I pinch my nose when I walk past so I can’t smell it.

5. “Don’t forget your raincoat,” my mom says before we leave for school. “It is **pouring** like cats and dogs today.”
Day 4

Read the story. Then, fill out the chart on the next page.

Danesh is excited. It is a special day for his grandfather. His family is making a big meal together.

First, he helps Grandma set the table. They set out the green placemats and the beautiful dishes.

Then, Grandma shows Danesh how to make the dessert, *sheer korma* pudding. It is his favourite. She shows him how to stir the milk and sugar slowly. Then they add the dates.

Then, he proudly carries it to the table. There is so much good food!

Grandpa takes a bite of his dessert. “Hmmmm...” he says. “This tastes different.”

Danesh is worried. Grandpa laughs. “I think it has something special in it, Danesh. I think I can taste the love you put into it!” Grandpa smiles.
Day 4 (continued)

The main idea of a story is what the story is mostly about. The details describe or explain the main idea. Fill out this chart to summarise the main idea and details of the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the main idea of the story?</th>
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<tr>
<td>__________________________________</td>
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What is 1 supporting detail of the main idea?

What is another supporting detail of the main idea?

What is another supporting detail of the main idea?
Day 4 (continued)

Write a story based on the following information.

Main Idea: Today is the last day of school.

• **Supporting Detail 1**: Fion rides the bus to school with Jo and Ann.
• **Supporting Detail 2**: There is a pizza party for lunch.
• **Supporting Detail 3**: The class surprises Mrs. Reid by giving her a beautiful card at the end of the day.
Today is Andi’s seventh birthday. She can’t wait for her party! She has been planning it nonstop for 2 whole weeks.

Andi is having her party at the Pizza house. She decorates the Pizza house with colourful balloons. She also puts out party hats for each of her friends.

At the party, Andi’s friends sing *Happy Birthday*. Andi closes her eyes and makes a wish. Then, she blows out the candles on her chocolate cake. Andi and her friends eat cake and celebrate for the rest of the day!

After the party, Andi smiles her biggest smile. She feels very joyful and thankful for her amazing friends.
The main idea of a story is what the story is mostly about. The details describe or explain the main idea. Fill out this chart to summarize the main idea and details of the story.

What is the main idea of the story?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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What is 1 supporting detail of the main idea?
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What is another supporting detail of the main idea?
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What is another supporting detail of the main idea?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Write a story based on the following information.

Main Idea: My favourite part of winter is the snow.

- Supporting Detail 1: I build a snowman that is 1 metre tall.
- Supporting Detail 2: I have a snowball fight with my neighbours.
- Supporting Detail 3: My brother and I make snow angels for hours.
- Supporting Detail 4: My dog and I tunnel through the snow looking for treasures.