

AKS^{at} HOME 3rd Grade

Language Arts Unit 2

AKS = Academic Knowledge and Skills: the curriculum your child will learn this year in school.

AKS/Objective: Identify the main idea/central message of a text and explain how key ideas support the main idea/central message, referring to the text; provide a brief summary of the text.

This means...

I can... Recount the message of a text and how details from the text support the message.

I can... Summarize the text

This looks like...

Action 1: Your child should be able to tell/articulate what the main idea or message of the story was after reading it

Action 2: Your child should be able to summarize the story with details from the beginning, middle, and end.

Activity Title: Identify the Main Idea or Central Message

LEVEL: Proficient

Materials needed:

- Online Reading of [“The Ants and The Grasshopper”](#) or any other “Aesop’s Fables”
- Paper
- Pen or pencil

Directions:

1. Read/Listen to the story prior to reading/listening with your child.
2. Determine what the message of the story is (For example, “If you do not work, you do not eat.”)
3. On the paper, draw an organizer similar to the one used in the materials. (Write the central message on top)
4. Now ask your child to use details from the story to write how he/she knows this is the message of the story.

The image shows a worksheet titled "Central Message" with a decorative border. At the top, the title "Central Message" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a large, cloud-shaped box with a scalloped edge, containing several horizontal lines for writing. Below this cloud box is a rectangular box with a decorative border, containing the text "This is how I know" followed by several horizontal lines for writing. The entire worksheet is framed by a decorative border with a repeating pattern.

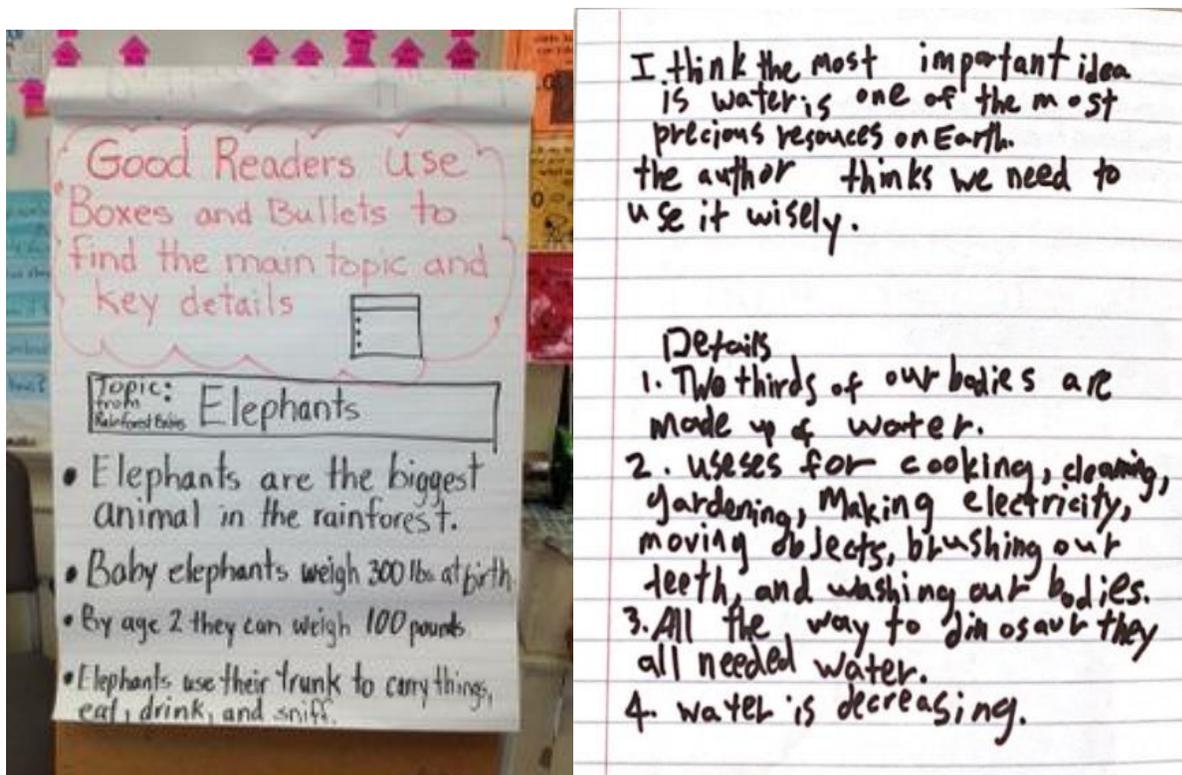
If the activity is too hard, try this:

- Rephrase the question in a way that is more relatable to your child. Instead of saying, “What do you think the lesson is?” Try asking questions like, “What advice would you give to the grasshopper?” If it is still too hard for your child to answer, start the sentence for them and let them finish it. Example: “Grasshopper, I think that you should remember to _____.” or “Always remember to _____.”
- Remember there are sometimes more than one lesson to be learned from a story. Value your child’s thoughts and have them explain their thinking. Some examples might be, “Work first, then play.” or “Don’t put off for tomorrow what you can do today.” Another child may talk about the story from the ant’s perspective and say the lesson is, “You should always treat others with kindness, even if they don’t do the right thing.” Validate what your child says, and then also help them to understand what other lessons can be learned from it. “You’re right! I didn’t think about that. I was thinking about the grasshopper and how it seemed like he was sorry that he wasted his time when he should have been getting ready for winter.”
- If your child struggles with writing or is hesitant to get started, have your child tell you the answers orally first. You can write down what he or she says, or have your child draw pictures to show what he or she has learned. You can also write down some of the sentences for your child, and let him or her fill in the blanks. There are also many other fun ways for your child to respond to a story. [Classroom Activities: 25 Book Report Alternatives](#)
- Break the task into smaller parts and do a little each day. On the first day, enjoy reading and talking about the story. On the second day, read the story again and then try writing a response together.

- Remember that a summary is different than a complete retelling. Instead of telling every little detail, remind your child to include the most important ones that also give information about the big ideas of the story. You can take turns practicing telling a summary so that your child also benefits from hearing someone else tell it. You can also provide your child with some sentences to finish: In the beginning, the grasshopper wanted _____, but then he _____. So he _____. In the end, _____. I think the lesson is _____.

If the activity is too easy, try this:

Create a 'Boxes and Bullets' chart in a notebook or on sticky notes. Review important sentences and ask yourself if the information you are reading is a main idea (box) or a supporting detail (bullet). Write the main idea in a box and write supporting details after the bullets. Use the information from your boxes and bullets to help you write a summary.



Good Readers Use
Boxes and Bullets to
find the main topic and
key details

Topic:
from
Rainforest Babes

Elephants

- Elephants are the biggest animal in the rainforest.
- Baby elephants weigh 300 lbs at birth.
- By age 2 they can weigh 100 pounds.
- Elephants use their trunk to carry things, eat, drink, and sniff.

I think the most important idea is water; is one of the most precious resources on Earth. the author thinks we need to use it wisely.

Details

1. Two thirds of our bodies are made up of water.
2. useses for cooking, cleaning, gardening, Making electricity, moving objects, brushing out teeth, and washing out bodies.
3. All the way to dinosaurs they all needed water.
4. water is decreasing.

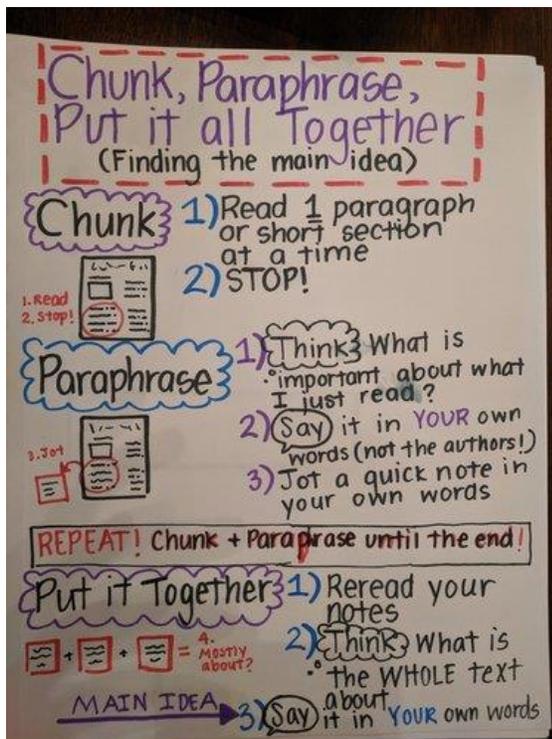
If the activity is just right, try this:

Before Reading...

Look at the cover and title page of the book. What do you think the book is going to be about?
Make a prediction

During Reading...

Get some paper or sticky-notes and a pen or pencil. As you are reading or listening to the story write down key information from the beginning, middle, and end. Stop after each paragraph and think about what you read. What was the central message? What was it mostly about? Jot down your ideas in your own words.



After Reading...

Use your notes to help you write a summary about the story you have read. Write down the title and author of the book. Think about what you read. What was the main idea of the story? What was the central message? Write the main idea on your paper. Next think about the sequence of events and the details from the story. What details helped you understand the central message and lessons learned? What events take place in the beginning, middle and end? How do the characters change throughout the story? What lesson did the characters learn? Think about 3 details from the beginning, middle and end of the story that support the main idea. Create a short summary by writing a few sentences about the main idea and the supporting details of the story you read.