What Is This Mostly About? Rain

Teacher		**Class**	Grade 2
Subject	ELA	**Topic**	Reading comprehension: main topic
Date		**Room**	
Lesson length	60 minutes	**Country**	United States

Students learn to find the main topic and each paragraph focus. They rebuild a rain book and tell what each part is about.

Curriculum links

- Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

Learning objectives

- Students will identify the main topic of a three-paragraph text about rain.
- Students will identify the focus of each specific paragraph within the text.
- Students will tell the main topic apart from small supporting details.

Success criteria

- I can name the main topic in a few words.
- I can say what each paragraph is mostly about.
- I can tell a topic apart from a small detail.

What students already know

Hold up a picture book. Ask: What is this whole book about? What is this one page about? Listen for whole-book vs one-page answers in 2 minutes.

Key words

main topic	what a whole reading is mostly about
paragraph focus	what one small part of a reading is mostly about
detail	a small fact or example that tells more about the focus [2]
topic sentence	the first line that tells what a part will explain [2]

Materials

- pre-cut strips of three short paragraphs about rain
- three number cards
- one main-topic card
- Slides 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12
- Video clip 4 "Finding the Main Idea" (0:00-2:13)
- chart paper and markers
- pencils and exit slips

Before the lesson

- Print and cut strips of the three-paragraph rain text, one set per small group
- Print three number cards and one main-topic card per group
- Load Slides 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and test Video clip 4 (0:00-2:13)
- Set up chart paper with Main Topic on top and three boxes for Paragraph 1, 2, 3
- Clear table space for groups to order strips

Lesson outline

0–5 min **Starter** 5 min · Whole class

Hook interest and recall the difference between a whole book and one part.

YOU DO

1. Hold up mixed rain strips and act worried to hook the class.
2. Show Slide 1 title and Slide 4 photo of frogs.
3. Ask what the whole frog book is about and what one part is about.
4. Link frog example to the mixed-up rain book task.

STUDENTS DO

1. Look at Slide 4 photo and listen to the hook.
2. Turn and talk with a neighbor about whole book vs one part.
3. Share ideas whole class.

Say: Oh no! My little book about rain fell apart and all the pages got mixed up! Can you help me put it together and figure out what the whole book is mostly about? First we will practice with frogs.

Ask: What is the whole frog book mostly about? (Frogs. This whole book is about frogs.) · What is one part mostly about? (How they hop or what they eat. One part tells how they hop. One part tells what they eat.)

Check understanding: Thumbs up if you can say whole-book vs one-part. If mixed, point again to whole book, then to one part and repeat.

Support: Point to the whole frog picture, then cover all but one part while asking. **Stretch:** Ask students to name another focus a frog book could have.

Use: Slides 1, 4

5–15 min **Teaching** 10 min · Whole class

Teach main topic, paragraph focus, and details and how readers find them.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 3 cards and read each word and meaning together.
2. Play Video clip 4 (0:00-2:13) and ask students to clap when they hear the topic word.
3. Show Slide 7 steps and think aloud about title, pictures, and repeated words.
4. Model that a heading can reveal the subject [2] and the topic sentence is often found at the beginning of the paragraph [2].

STUDENTS DO

1. Read Slide 3 words aloud and clap for topic word in video.
2. Repeat Slide 7 steps with hand motions.
3. Tell a neighbor the main topic of the frog book.

Say: Main topic is what the whole text is mostly about. Paragraph focus is what one small part is mostly about. Good readers look at the title and pictures first and find words that show up a lot. Details are small facts that tell more.

Worked example: Slide 4 example solved: 1. Ask: What do all parts talk about? Frogs. 2. Look at repeats: frog, hop, eat. 3. Say main topic: frogs. 4. Say focuses: Paragraph focus 1 is how frogs hop. Paragraph focus 2 is what frogs eat. Details like long legs tell more but are not the topic.

Ask: What is a main topic? (What the whole text is mostly about.) · How do details help? (They give examples and reasons that tell more about the point [2].) · Where do we often find the topic sentence? (At the beginning of the paragraph, it sets the stage for details that follow [2].)

Check understanding: Show-Me: hold up 1 finger for whole text, 2 fingers for one part when teacher names frogs vs how frogs hop. Reteach with picture if mixed.

Support: Give word cards with pictures to hold while listening. **Stretch:** Ask students to give a detail for the hop focus.

Use: Video clip 4 (0:00-2:13), Slides 3, 7

15–35 min **Guided Practice** 20 min · Whole class

Practice finding paragraph focus and main topic together with turtle text.

YOU DO

1. Display Slide 10 steps and read them aloud.
2. Read Slide 9 Part 1 aloud twice slowly and underline repeated words with marker.
3. Think aloud about the topic sentence and ask what Part 1 is mostly about.
4. Read Part 2 the same way, chart both focuses, then add them to name the main topic.

STUDENTS DO

1. Listen to each part and whisper repeated words.
2. Turn and talk with a partner: This paragraph is mostly about ___.
3. Share and help chart the two focuses and main topic.

Say: Let's do it together. I will read. You listen for what most sentences describe. Ask: What is this part mostly about? Then we will put the parts together for the main topic.

Worked example: Slide 9 text: Part 1: Baby turtles hatch on warm sand at night and run to the water. Part 2: Green turtles munch sea grass and small sea plants all day. Solved: Part 1 focus is baby turtles hatching and running to water. Part 2 focus is what green turtles eat. Common words are turtles. Main topic is turtles.

Ask: What is Part 1 mostly about? (Baby turtles hatching and running to water.) · What is Part 2 mostly about? (What green turtles eat, sea grass and sea plants.) · What is the main topic of both parts together? (Turtles. Both parts are about turtles.)

Check understanding: Partners hold up sentence frame card: This paragraph is mostly about ___. Listen for correct focus. Reread topic sentence quietly if stuck.

Support: Let students point to picture clues of hatch and munch before saying words. **Stretch:** Ask students to name which detail sentence helped them most.

Use: Slides 9-10

35–50 min **Main Activity** 15 min · Groups

Identify the main topic of the rain text and the focus of each paragraph in groups.

YOU DO

1. Give each group mixed strips, three number cards, and one main-topic card.
2. Model that a heading can reveal the subject [2] and to check the topic sentence at the start that sets the stage for details [2].
3. Guide groups to order strips 1, 2, 3 by clue words and match each to its focus.
4. Have each group point and say: The whole text is mostly about rain. This paragraph is mostly about ___.

STUDENTS DO

1. Work in small groups to put paragraph strips in order with number cards.
2. Match each strip to its focus: looks like, wear, do after.
3. Point to main-topic card and practice the show-it sentence.

Say: Now you are the fixers. Put the strips in order 1, 2, 3. Read the first line of each part. Ask: What is this part mostly about? Then decide what the whole book is mostly about.

Worked example: Rain text solved step by step. Paragraph 1: Rain falls from dark clouds in the sky. The drops look like tiny lines falling down. Sometimes the rain falls fast and hard. Puddles grow big on the ground. Focus: what rain looks like. Paragraph 2: People wear coats to stay dry in the rain. They put on boots for wet feet. Many people hold umbrellas over their heads. Hats and hoods keep hair dry too. Focus: what people wear in rain. Paragraph 3: After the rain stops, people go outside. They jump over puddles on the path. They look for rainbows in the sky. They look for worms and snails too. Focus: what people do after rain. Main topic: rain, because common words rain, puddles, wet show up and all parts are about rain.

Ask: What is the whole text mostly about? (Rain.) · What is paragraph 2 mostly about? (What people wear in rain.) · How do you know paragraph 1 is not mostly about umbrellas? (No sentence in paragraph 1 mentions an umbrella; most sentences describe rain drops and puddles.)

Check understanding: Each group says the show-it sentence aloud. If focus is a detail, ask: Do all sentences tell about that? Reread topic sentence.

Support: Give one group a copy with the topic sentence of each paragraph underlined to narrow what to read closely. **Stretch:** Have students cover the headings and make up a new two-word heading for one paragraph.

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

50–60 min **Plenary** 10 min · Whole class

Check main topic and paragraph focus and connect parts to the whole.

YOU DO

1. Show Slide 11 mystery and read it aloud.
2. Ask groups to solve the paragraph focus and explain the clue.
3. Show Slide 12 exit ticket and hand out slips.
4. Collect slips and restate: parts add up to main topic.

STUDENTS DO

1. Solve bee mystery with a partner and share focus.
2. Complete exit slip on their own.
3. Check success lines with thumbs up.

Say: You fixed the rain book. Let's try a bee test. Then you will write your own answer. Remember to say the focus in 2 or 3 words and name the main topic.

Worked example: Slide 11 solved: All the pages are about bees. This page shows tiny gold rooms. What is this paragraph's focus? Answer: How bees make and store honey in the hive. Main topic bees, paragraph focus honey rooms. Details about gold rooms prove it.

Ask: What is the paragraph focus on the bee page? (How bees make and store honey in the hive.) · How are two paragraphs different if the main topic is one? (Each part tells a different focus about the same topic.)

Check understanding: Read 3 exit slips aloud. If answers name details, model summarizing what paragraphs share to get main idea [2].

Support: Allow drawing for focus plus sentence frame: This paragraph is mostly about ___. **Stretch:** Ask students to add which sentence was the biggest clue.

Use: Slides 11-12

Common mistakes

Mistake	How to spot it	How to fix it
Naming a small detail as the main topic	Says main topic is umbrellas or puddles when all paragraphs are about rain	Ask if all paragraphs tell about it. Find words that show up a lot across paragraphs to point to main topic [2].
Giving the same focus for every paragraph	Says all three paragraphs are about wearing coats	Reread the topic sentence at the beginning of each paragraph [2] and ask: What is this part mostly about, not the last part?

Support

- Give a copy with the topic sentence of each paragraph underlined to narrow what to read closely.

Stretch

- Have students cover the headings and make up a new two-word heading for one paragraph.

For the LSE or teaching assistant

Stay with target group in main activity: reread each topic sentence quietly, prompt with This paragraph is mostly about ___, and help order number cards.

Check for understanding

Question	Answer

Our whole text today was mostly about what?	Rain.
Name one paragraph focus you found.	What rain looks like, what people wear in rain, or what people do after rain.
Which is a detail, not the main topic: rain or tiny lines falling down?	Tiny lines falling down is a detail that tells more about rain.

Homework

Tell a family member what our rain book was mostly about and what one part was mostly about.

Sources

1. How to Read the Standards · thecorestandards.org · https://www.thecorestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/introduction/how-to-read-the-standards/
2. Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details | Tutoring ... · stlcc.edu · https://stlcc.edu/insider/reading-resources/main-ideas-supporting-details.aspx
3. Reading - Wikipedia · en.m.wikipedia.org · https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading
4. Reading, Berkshire - Wikipedia · en.m.wikipedia.org · https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reading,_Berkshire
5. Phonics · Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonics
6. Science of reading · Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_of_reading

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources