Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

What's the Big Idea?

Find main topics and paragraph focus.

About 40 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Plants Grow and Help Us

1. Plants grow in many places. They can be big trees or small flowers. All plants need sun, water, and soil to live and grow. This text tells how plant parts help a plant live.
2. Roots grow under the ground. They hold the plant in the soil. Roots also take in water for the plant to drink. Strong roots help the plant stand up tall.
3. The stem grows up from the roots. It holds up the leaves and flowers. The stem carries water from the roots to the rest of the plant. Some stems are soft. Some are hard like wood.
4. Leaves use sun and water to make food for the plant. Leaves can be big, small, round, or long. Many leaves are green. Healthy leaves help the whole plant grow.

Task A

/5

Read Paragraphs 1 to 4 on this page. Then answer a) to c). Use short answers.

A 7-year-old student in Grade 2 reads Plants Grow and Help Us for class. The student must tell the **main topic** and the **focus** of some parts.

a. **State** the **main topic** of the whole passage in one sentence. **(1)**

.....

b. **List TWO** details from Paragraph 2 that show its **focus**. **(2)**

.....

.....

c. **Explain** which paragraph tells about **stems** and what its **focus** is. **(2)**

.....

.....

(Total: 5 marks)

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Hunt Key Words

Find and learn words for talking about topics.

Key words

main topic: what the whole text is mostly about

focus: what one paragraph is mostly about

roots: parts under the ground that take in water

paragraph: one part of a text with a group of sentences

detail: a small fact that tells more

stem: part that holds up leaves and carries water

Task B

/10

Find 10 **hidden** words about plants and reading. Look across and down.

C	J	H	P	K	J	K	H	A	S	L
C	Y	C	Y	G	S	L	J	K	O	D
O	P	S	T	E	M	D	O	K	I	D
T	A	T	B	D	V	J	Y	N	L	C
E	R	N	D	T	V	R	O	O	T	S
A	A	G	L	T	F	P	F	M	L	R
S	G	G	P	T	O	C	W	O	E	Y
V	R	R	L	O	C	C	A	B	A	V
F	A	O	A	P	U	V	T	U	V	F
W	P	W	N	I	S	R	E	O	E	U
B	H	U	T	C	J	V	R	H	S	L

- ☐ PARAGRAPH
- ☐ LEAVES
- ☐ PLANT
- ☐ ROOTS
- ☐ TOPIC
- ☐ FOCUS
- ☐ WATER
- ☐ STEM
- ☐ GROW
- ☐ SOIL

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Why Topics Matter

Think deeper and check facts and opinions.

Task C

Think deeper about main topics. Answer each Why box.

Finding the main topic helps you understand what you read.

Why? You know what the text is mostly about

.....

Why?

.....

Why?

.....

Why?

.....

Why?

.....

Task D

/5

Tick fact or opinion for each line about the passage on page 1. Then tell how you can tell for number 4.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
Roots grow under the ground and take in **water**.		
The stem carries water to the rest of the **plant**.		
Leaves with a round shape are the **prettiest** leaves.		
Learning about plant parts is really **fun**.		

How can you tell that one of them is an opinion?

.....

.....

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Small Steps Win

Use tiny steps and puzzles to practice focus.

☆ Task E

Follow these tiny steps to find the topic. Tick each box.

Find the main topic of Plants Grow and Help Us

Step	1	2	3	4	5	Done!
Read Paragraph 1 and ask what it is **mostly** about.		☆				
Look at Paragraphs 2 to 4 and find each **focus**.		☆				
Ask what all paragraphs **share**.		☆				
Say the main topic in 9 **words** or less.		☆				
Check with **details** from the passage.		☆				

My reward: Pick a green plant sticker for your chart.

Task F

Example done for you

/4

Unscramble each mixed word. Use the clue to help.

C P O T I — Whole text is mostly about this

TOPIC

T R S O O — Take in water under soil

E S M T — Holds up leaves and flowers

V A E E L S — Make food with sun

O C F S U — What one paragraph is about

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Check Your Reading

Prove you can find the main topic.

Task G Example done for you /4

Use Paragraphs 1 to 4 on page 1. Tick true or false for each.

Statement	True	False
The **main topic** of the whole passage is how plant parts help a plant live.	✓	
Paragraph 2 is mostly about **roots**.		
Paragraph 3 is mostly about **leaves**.		
Paragraph 4 tells how leaves make **food** for the plant.		
Details about sun, water, and soil are in Paragraph **1**.		

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What's the Big Idea?

Task H

/8

Pick the best title that shows the main topic. Compare first.

A student must pick a title for Plants Grow and Help Us on page 1.

How Plant Parts Help Plants Grow

Advantage

Disadvantage

Red Flowers Are Pretty

Advantage

Disadvantage

Soil Is Brown

Advantage

Disadvantage

Which is the most suitable? Justify your choice.

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can tell the main topic of a whole text.	☹	😐	☺
I can tell the focus of each paragraph.	☹	😐	☺
I can use details to check my idea.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: What's the Big Idea?

Task A

a) How plant parts help a plant live and grow. (1)

b) Roots hold the plant in the soil; roots take in water. (2)

c) Paragraph 3; its focus is how the stem holds up the plant and carries water. (2)

Task B



Words: PARAGRAPH, LEAVES, PLANT, ROOTS, TOPIC, FOCUS, WATER, STEM, GROW, SOIL (see the grid)

Task C

Answers will vary, e.g. You know what the text is mostly about; You can tell which details matter most; You can remember and retell it better

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Task D

1. Fact
2. Fact
3. Opinion
4. Opinion

Task E

Answers will vary.

Task F

1. TOPIC
2. ROOTS
3. STEM
4. LEAVES
5. FOCUS

Task G

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True

Task H

How Plant Parts Help Plants Grow: + Tells the main idea of all paragraphs.; – A bit long to read.

Red Flowers Are Pretty: + Short and fun to read.; – Only about one detail, not the whole text.

Soil Is Brown: + Talks about soil from Paragraph 1.; – Misses the focus of Paragraphs 2 to 4.

How Plant Parts Help Plants Grow is best because it covers Paragraphs 1 to 4 and how roots, stems, and leaves help.

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