

Reading Strategy: 05 Main Idea

 Class: _____ No.: _____ Name: _____ 1020805

■ Main Idea

Main idea is the most important or central thought of a paragraph or larger section of text, which tells the reader what the text is about. The questions often are:

- What is the main idea (of the reading)?
- What is the reading (mainly) about? / What is the reading talking about?
- What do we know / learn from the reading?
- What messages should you be aware of in the reading?
- Which of the following is true / not true?
- What is the best title of the reading?
- What is the conclusion of the reading?



Choose the answer covering the whole concept of the passage instead of partial information.

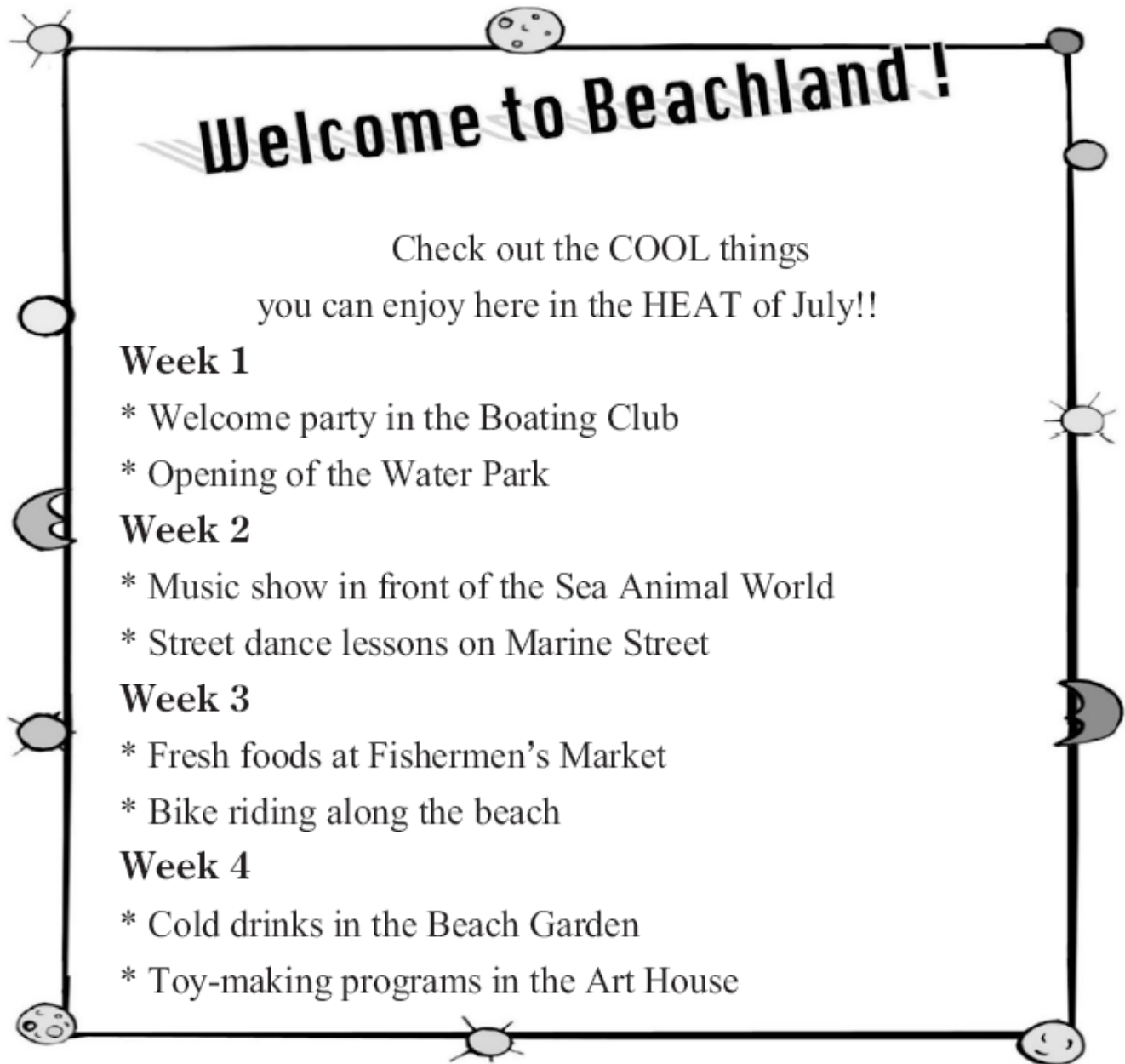
Exercise: 97-1 BC Test

I was sitting by the window,
Lightly kissing my sleeping cat,
The half-finished coffee on the table,
The blowing fan on the wall,
The sweet music on the radio.


A little girl was riding a yellow bike,
Slowly passing by my window,
The light wind on her face,
The flying hair behind her ears,
The quiet lazy summer afternoon.

Henry W.

29. What is the tone of the reading?
(A) It is exciting. (B) It is very sad. (C) It is easy and slow. (D) It is serious and worried.
30. Which is NOT true about the writer?
(A) He liked the music on the radio.
(B) He was looking out from a window.
(C) He wrote about a moment in summertime.
(D) He was drinking coffee with the little girl.



32. What is the poster about?

 poster 海報

- (A) An art show.
- (B) A fishing trip.
- (C) A dancing party.
- (D) A summer festival.

Can the Time Go Slower?

by Joanna Pitt

Can the time go slower?
I'm still thinking of
The answers.

Can the time go slower?
My head is not
Yet clear.

Can the time go slower?
For me the rules of math are
Too hard to remember.

Can the time go slower?
My grade is what my father
Really cares about.

So can the time go slower?
My dear teacher,
I don't want to run behind others.

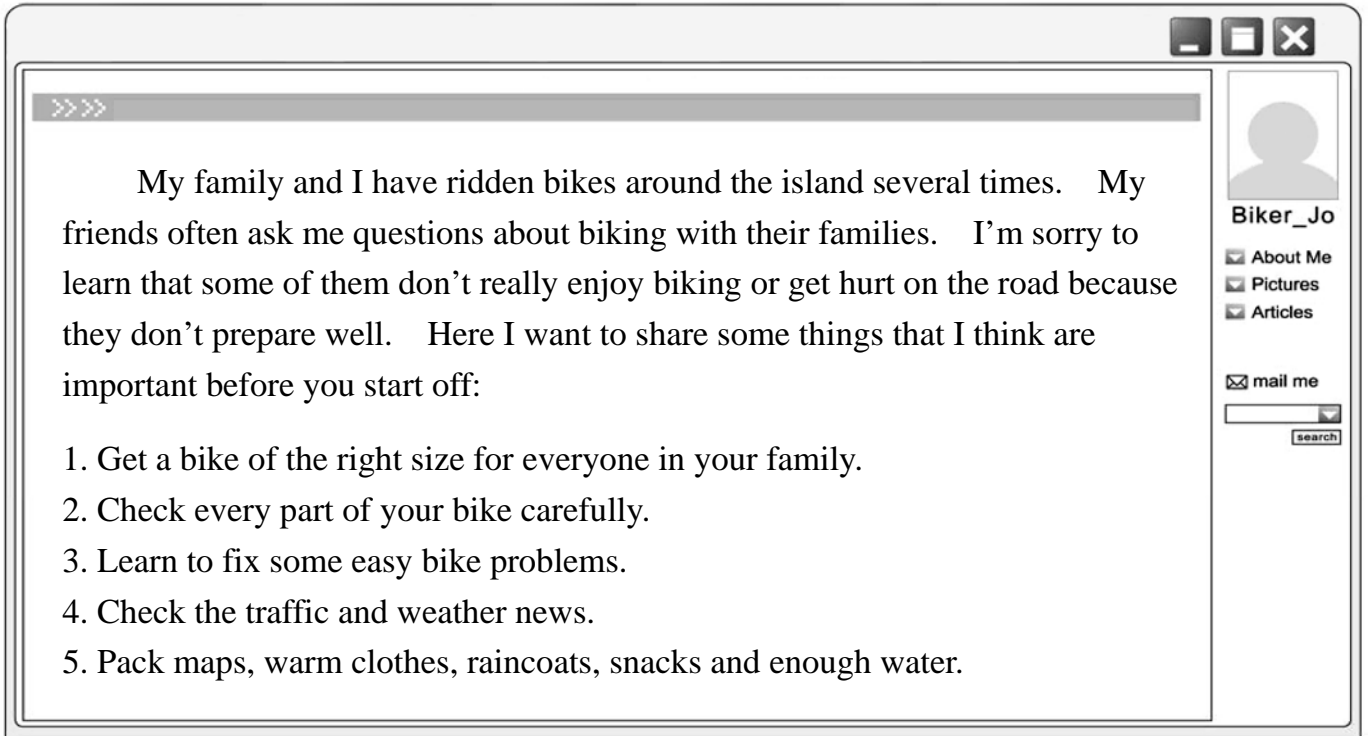
...

Oh NO!

There are still lots of questions
To be answered!

29. What is the reading about?

- (A) Taking a test.
- (B) Teaching math.
- (C) Learning driving.
- (D) Running at the school.




The screenshot shows a web browser window with a grey title bar containing minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The main content area has a grey address bar with three right-pointing arrows. The text of the post reads: "My family and I have ridden bikes around the island several times. My friends often ask me questions about biking with their families. I'm sorry to learn that some of them don't really enjoy biking or get hurt on the road because they don't prepare well. Here I want to share some things that I think are important before you start off:" followed by a numbered list of five items. On the right side, there is a profile picture placeholder, the name "Biker_Jo", and three menu items: "About Me", "Pictures", and "Articles", each with a small square icon. Below these is a "mail me" link with an envelope icon, a search input field, and a "search" button.

>>>

My family and I have ridden bikes around the island several times. My friends often ask me questions about biking with their families. I'm sorry to learn that some of them don't really enjoy biking or get hurt on the road because they don't prepare well. Here I want to share some things that I think are important before you start off:

1. Get a bike of the right size for everyone in your family.
2. Check every part of your bike carefully.
3. Learn to fix some easy bike problems.
4. Check the traffic and weather news.
5. Pack maps, warm clothes, raincoats, snacks and enough water.


Biker_Jo
 About Me
 Pictures
 Articles
 mail me

search

31. What is the writer talking about?
- (A) How to fix a bike on the road.
 - (B) How to save money on a bike ride.
 - (C) Things to do for a safe and happy bike ride.
 - (D) Things to remember when you get hurt on the road.

Read the play and answer the questions.

Place: A child's room with white walls, a white door, and a white bed. On the bed, there are some clothes.

Character: A doll, who looks very old and dirty, is sitting on the bed and speaking.

The doll: She should be here soon. We will play some games today.

(Three hours pass. NO ONE knocks on the door.)

The doll: Just a few more seconds. We might play “try-on-new-clothes” today.


(Five hours go by. NO SOUND is heard.)

The doll: Maybe the school bus is late. Soon she'll be here, and we will sing and dance together.

(One day has flown away. The doll is still sitting on the bed, waiting.)

The doll: Maybe tomorrow.... I'm sure she'll come tomorrow, and then we will play.

(There in the room, the doll repeats the same story every day....)

 play 劇本 character 角色

41. What happens in the play?
- (A) A doll is changing clothes.
 - (B) A doll is talking to herself.
 - (C) A doll is singing and dancing.
 - (D) A doll is waiting for the bus to school.


98-2 BC Test


Last month Jim brought a baby cat home from the pet shop. She is beautiful with gray and white hair. Jim gave her the name Popo. He and his family love her very much and often talk to her. Popo is very shy and afraid of strangers. Every time Jim brings his friends home, she will hide herself. It takes time to make friends with Popo. But when she sees you as a friend, she will be happy to be with you all the time. Popo often lies quietly next to Jim when he is home. Sometimes she sits by the window looking at the flowers in the garden.

The family is always busy, and it is not easy for them to get together. But since they got Popo, they have tried to spend time together playing with their little girl, who has become the center of their family life.


31. What can we learn from the reading?
- (A) Flowers make a house more beautiful.
 - (B) Keeping a pet helps a family get together.
 - (C) We should be friendly to people who visit us.
 - (D) It takes time to make friends with people who love cats.

100-2 BC Test

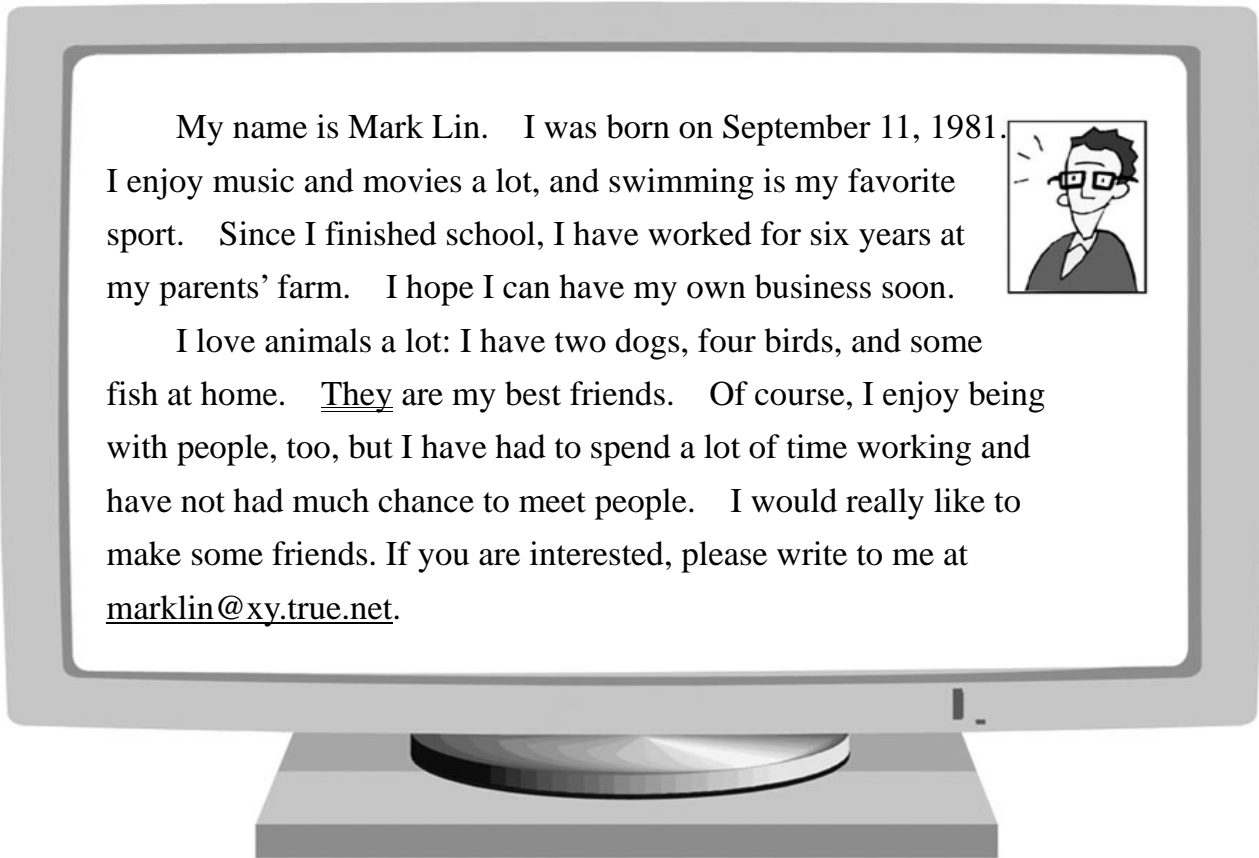
 We're soon going back to Taiwan, and have to say goodbye to Mr. Brown, the excellent helper for our family since we came to the U.S. Mr. Brown helps us clean the house, prepare dinner and take care of our two little girls. The girls call him "Uncle Bill" and have a good time with him. Mr. Brown lives near the train station with his wife. If you need somebody to help around your house, he can work for you from 1:00-6:00 p.m., from Monday to Friday. Please call him at 388-5566. If you need him to stay later, feel free to talk to him. Mr. Brown can speak a little Chinese and will be the best helper for your



32. What is the ad for?
- (A) To find a missing man.
 - (B) To find a new job for a man.
 - (C) To look for a Chinese teacher.
 - (D) To look for someone to work for a family.

 ad 廣告

Here is Mark Lin's profile. Read it and answer the questions.




33. Why did Mark write this profile?
- (A) To make friends.
 - (B) To look for a job.
 - (C) To join a sports club.
 - (D) To give his pets away.
34. What does **They** mean in the profile?
- (A) Farm workers.
 - (B) Mark's parents.
 - (C) Music and movies.
 - (D) Mark's dogs, birds, and fish.
35. Which is true about Mark?
- (A) He is a student.
 - (B) He enjoys swimming.
 - (C) He is not interested in business.
 - (D) He wants to be a writer in the future.

102 BC Test

In the art world, many artists with “weak” bodies have shown us a “strong” power in their great works of art. Take Frida Kahlo for example. She was a healthy girl until she was knocked down by a bus at the age of twelve. Much of her body was seriously hurt, but her mind wasn’t. In her paintings, we can feel her strong love of art and life. Another example is Christy Brown. He was born in bad health, and the only part of his body that could move was his left foot. However, using his only foot, he still was able to write and draw wonderfully. In his autobiography, Brown wrote what happened in his life and how he began to draw pictures with his left foot. And don’t forget Stevie Wonder. He became blind soon after he was born, but he is now a popular singer and songwriter.

These artists with “weak” bodies bring us many good things and much hope with their “strong” minds. Their stories tell us that the most important thing in life is not what we have, but what we make of it.

 artist 藝術家

39. What is the writer trying to say?

- (A) History always repeats itself.
- (B) Art is the best medicine for a weak mind.
- (C) We should try to make the best use of our lives.
- (D) It takes more than hard work to make a great artist.




Exercise

I have a dog named Boots. I taught him lots of tricks. When I tell him to, Boots will sit or lie down. He can also wave his paw to greet people. When I say, “Dance, Boots,” he will stand up on two legs and walk. I don't know of many dogs that can do such amazing tricks.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- (A) Boots is my dog.
- (B) Boots can sit.
- (C) Boots is very smart.
- (D) Most dogs can't dance.

p.1. 29-C 30-D p2. 32-D p.3. 29-A p.4. 31-C p.5. 41-B
p.6. 31-B 32-B p.7. 33-35 A D B p.8 39-C, Exercise: C

-  <http://www.bctest.ntnu.edu.tw/>
-  <http://www.sophia.org/understanding-main-idea-and-supporting-details-as-tutorial>
-  http://www.help-teaching.com/questions/Main_Idea