

Goal: Reading – Comprehension

(I can understand what I read)

Skill: ID Main idea/Synthesizing

Strategy: Main Idea in Pictures

Main Idea in Pictures Strategy Sheet

What is it?

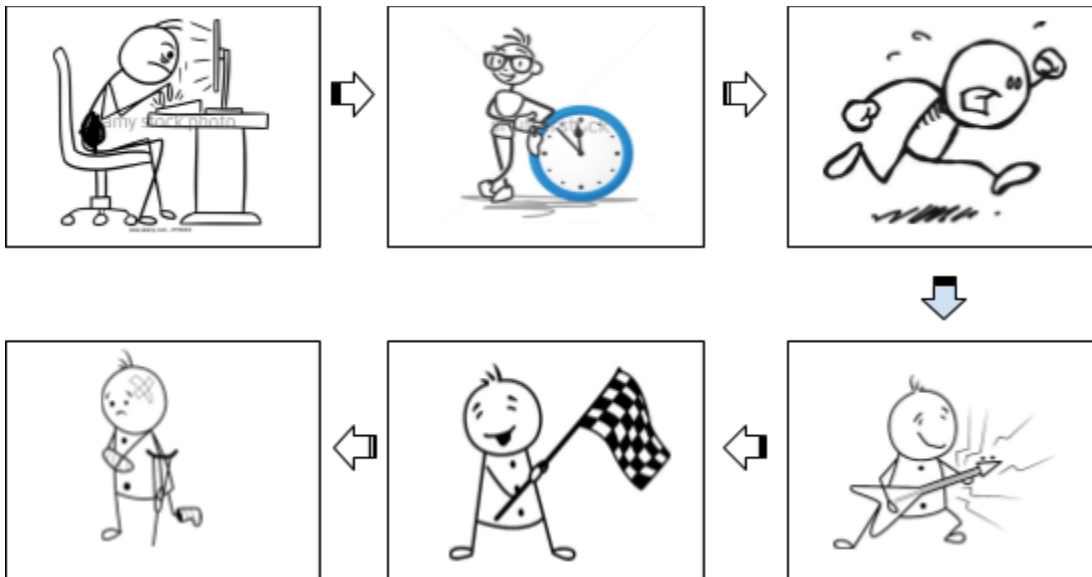
A main idea is a complete sentence, including the topic and what the author wants to say about it. Sometimes determining the main idea can be difficult. Main Idea in Pictures helps readers figure out the author's perspective on the text through a series of sketches.

How do I use it?

Divide the text into small chunks or sections. Stop after each paragraph and think “what am I picturing?” Draw a quick sketch focusing on what was most important in that section.

*Repeat this process for every section of text.

At the end of the text, look back over all of your sketches. Ask yourself “What do all of these sketches have in common? What is this whole text mostly about?” This answer will lead you to your main idea.



Main Idea:

What does the final product look like?

The final product is a series of sketches, and a main idea statement written below the sketches. Readers can use a template for this, draw one themselves, or use sticky notes if that is easier. Once the main idea is determined, the reader can review their sketches to see which ones can be used as key details to support the main idea statement.