

3RD GRADE ELA NEWSLETTER

January 19-23, 2026

NAME: _____ SECTION: _____

Homework:

Monday

1. No School- No Homework

Tuesday

1. Read the passages and find the author's purpose. Highlight text evidence.

Wednesday

1. Read the passages and find the central idea. Highlight text evidence.

Thursday

1. Abstract vs Concrete Nouns
2. Write the meaning of the underline word AND give a synonym.

**Complete 45 minutes of I-ready
by Sunday at 11:59 PM.**

Reminders

- Portfolio beings NEXT WEEK!
- Portfolio will take place every Wednesday.

The Grade 3 Reading Student Portfolio is administered to all students in grade 3 over the course of the 2nd semester of the school year. This assessment consists of sets of reading passages and questions which are aligned to the Florida standards. The results may be used to demonstrate reading proficiency to justify "good cause" promotion to grade 4 if criteria on the FAST is not met.

Assessments:

- Jan. 23: Reading/SS
Comprehension Test
- Jan 26: Spelling Quiz and
Grammar Quiz

Upcoming:

- Jan. 19: No school
- Jan 27: Parent Zoom Meeting
- Jan 29: Portfolio Begins

Complete the attached worksheets
and turn in entire packet on Friday.

Weekly Reading Skills

Comparison/Contrast



Author's Purpose: The Comparison/Contrast text structure helps authors describe how things are alike and different.

Transition Words: *but, both, however, and*

Cause/Effect



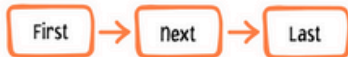
Author's Purpose: The Cause/Effect text structure helps authors explain what happened and why it happened.

Transition Words: *because, so, in order to, as a result*

TEXT STRUCTURE

Authors choose text structures that best fit their purposes for writing a text.

Sequence



Author's Purpose: The Sequence text structure helps authors explain events in order.

Transition Words: *before, first, next, then, last, after*

Problem/Solution



Author's Purpose: The Problem/Solution text structure helps authors explain how a problem is solved.

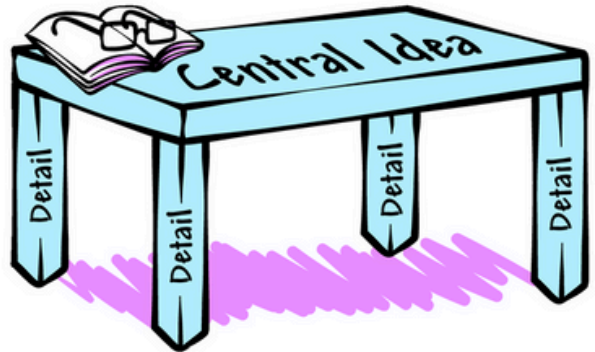
Transition Words: *problem, solution, difficulty, the answer is*

Central Idea

The **Central Idea** is what the text is mostly about.

Look for **text clues.**

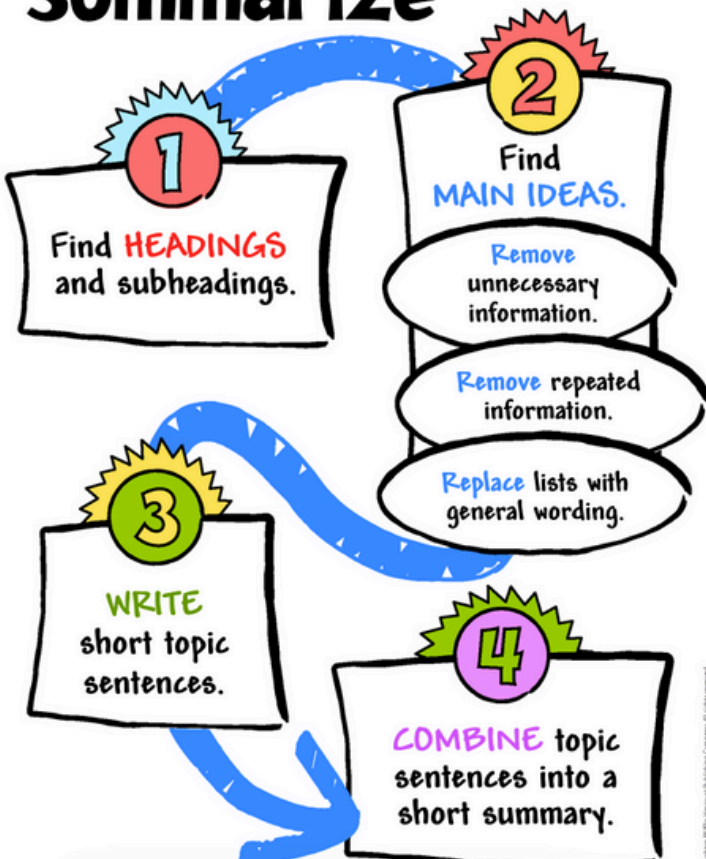
- Headings
- Visuals
- First or Last Sentence
- Repeated Words



Evaluate **details** to determine **key ideas** that support the central idea.

- Examples
- Facts
- Evidence
- Description

Summarize



Author's Purpose

An author's purpose is his or her reason for writing a text. Knowing the purpose helps you recognize the author's message.

If the author's purpose is to . . .

Persuade



then the author wants

readers to think or act in a certain way.

Inform



then the author wants

to share **information** about a topic.

Entertain



then the author wants

readers to enjoy a story.

How can you figure out the author's purpose?

FIRST...

think about the genre.

THEN...

ask questions about what you read and find answers.

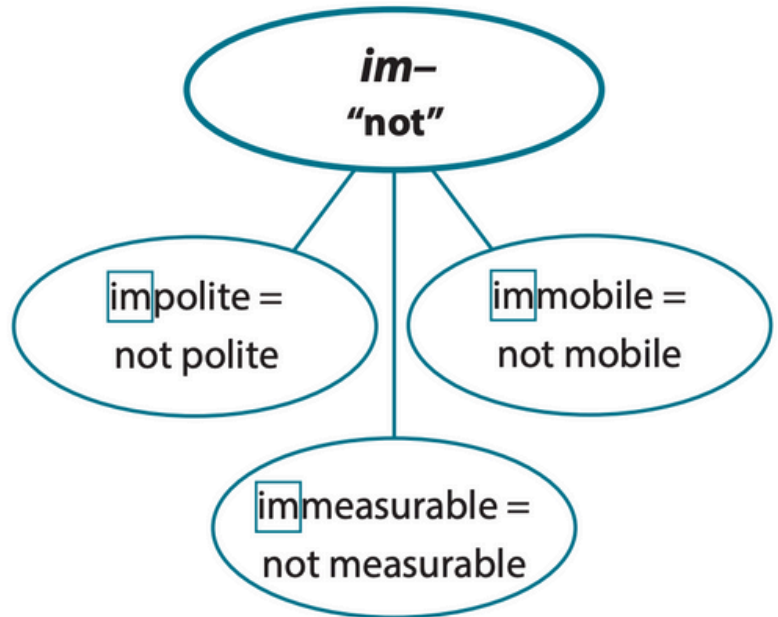
Vocabulary

Generative Vocabulary 3.13

Prefix *im-* (*not*)

A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a base word that changes the meaning of the word.

One meaning of the prefix *im-* is “not.” When you add *im-* to a base word, the new word can mean the opposite of the base word.



Vocabulary Strategy 3.12a

Synonyms and Antonyms

A **synonym** is a word that means the same or almost the same as another word. One synonym can replace another in a sentence without changing the meaning, or without changing it very much.

An **antonym** is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. Antonyms show how two things are different.

Identifying and understanding synonyms and antonyms can help you expand your vocabulary and better understand what you read.

Examples:

- 1 Thea joined the puzzle pieces until the puzzle was complete. Then Damon dismantled it and put each piece in the box.
- 2 If I shake this tree really hard, I might throttle the fruit right off the branches.
- 3 Juggling three oranges is difficult, but juggling four oranges is even more challenging.

Grammar Skill

Grammar 2.3.2a

Identifying Abstract Nouns

Concrete nouns name things that can be experienced by the five senses. Things you can see, hear, taste, smell, or touch are concrete nouns. You could draw a picture of something named by a concrete noun.

Abstract nouns name things that exist in a person's thoughts or emotions. Abstract nouns name feelings, ideas, or qualities. Things named by abstract nouns would be hard to draw or to identify in a drawing.

concrete noun

The ship was at **sea** for two weeks.

abstract noun

The sudden storm caused great **fear**.

Review Abstract Nouns

A noun can name a person, animal, place, or thing. This kind of noun is a **concrete noun**.

A noun can also name an idea, a feeling, or a quality. This is called an **abstract noun**. You cannot see, hear, taste, smell, or touch an abstract noun.

concrete noun

Otto is a wiggly **bundle** of fur.

abstract noun

The new puppy brings **joy** to our family.

The Statue of Liberty

Spelling List 3

wreck

knee

wrap

knot

knife

write

wring

knew

knock

knight

wrong

wrench

wrist

wrote

wedge

second

quart

stage

kneel

knitting

wreath

unwrapped

Fish make wonderful pets! They are quiet and do not make a mess. They are also easy to take care of. You should think about getting a fish as your next pet.

**PERSUADE, INFORM,
OR ENTERTAIN?**

1



Do you know where chocolate comes from? From the cacao tree. The seed pods are picked and then dried. Finally, a factory turns them into chocolate we can eat. Yum!

**PERSUADE, INFORM,
OR ENTERTAIN?**

2



"Hurry!" shouted Max as the big train raced down the tracks. A calf was stuck. Joe worked quickly to cut the rope. His heart pounded with fear. He had to get her free!

**PERSUADE, INFORM,
OR ENTERTAIN?**

3



Rainbows form when light passes through raindrops. Colors in the light are split apart so we can see them. These colors are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

**PERSUADE, INFORM,
OR ENTERTAIN?**

4



TUESDAY

Name: _____

Directions: Read each passage. Glue the correct author's purpose in the box.

<p>Gabby was so surprised to see the giant whale leap out of the water! Its huge tail came down with a crash splashing everyone on the boat. Gabby laughed and smiled at the sight of her parents getting wet.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>To make a chocolate cake, you will need flour, sugar, eggs, water, cocoa, and baking soda. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix the batter until it is light and fluffy. Pour it in a pan and bake for 25 minutes.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>The longest river in the world is the Nile. It is located in Africa. The Nile is home to many animals including fish, crocodile, and hippos. The Nile is important because it supplies water to millions of people.</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>I love bananas! Bananas are the best fruit because they are healthy and sweet. They don't have to be kept cold and you don't need a fork to eat one. You can take them anywhere. Don't you agree that bananas are the best fruit?</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Max ran outside to look in the garden. Just the day before, he had planted three magic beans. He wondered what they would turn into. When he got to the garden, Max saw three huge lollipops! What a great day!</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Everyone should have a fish. Fish make great pets because they are quiet and don't need to be walked. Fish are also fun to watch. They don't eat a lot and don't make a mess. You should make your next pet a fish.</p> <p>_____</p>

persuade

persuade

inform

inform

entertain

entertain

Central Idea

Excerpt from *Structure of Animals* by Thunderbolt Kids

Tails help an animal to move and swing. Monkeys, for example, balance in the trees, and kangaroos use their tails to balance while they jump. Crocodiles use their tails to spin them around and around when they need to catch their prey, while scorpions often have poison in their tails. Beavers use their powerful tails to pat ground down hard and solid. Almost all fish use their tails for swimming and to steer their movement. Whales, dolphins, sharks, and many others use their tail as a sort of rudder to steer them in a certain direction. Birds' tails are very important for steering as well.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What is the central idea?

- Ⓐ Tails are required for animals.
- Ⓑ Tails can be dangerous.
- Ⓒ Tails are needed to swim.
- Ⓓ Tails are helpful to many animals.

Part B: Fill in the circle before the sentence from the passage that supports your answer in Part A.

- Ⓐ Tails help an animal to move and swing.
- Ⓑ Monkeys, for example, balance in the trees, and kangaroos use their tails to balance while they jump.
- Ⓒ Crocodiles use their tails to spin them around and around when they need to catch their prey, while scorpions often have poison in their tails.

Central Idea

Excerpt from *Senses* by Thunderbolt Kids

Some animals have senses that are much better developed than those of humans. Dogs, for example, can sense things and help humans with these skills. Sniffer dogs help to find people who are trapped under building rubble, mudslides, or snow and tell the rescue workers where the victims are. These dogs also smell drugs or bombs and alert the police. Eagles, buzzards, hawks, and other birds of prey have extremely sharp eyes to see small rodents from very far away. Elephants, cats, and dogs can hear sounds that human ears cannot hear. Bats, dolphins and some whales use a special sense called echolocation. They send out special sound waves and can find prey or objects that they might bump into from quite far away.

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What is the central idea?

- Ⓐ Dogs can be very helpful to humans.
- Ⓑ Many animals have stronger senses than humans.
- Ⓒ Birds have amazingly sharp vision.
- Ⓓ Bats have a special sense called echolocation.

Part B: Which sentence supports the answer in Part A?

- Ⓐ Some animals have senses that are much better developed than those of humans.
- Ⓑ Dogs, for example, can sense things and help humans with these skills.
- Ⓒ Bats, dolphins and some whales use a special sense called echolocation.

Central Idea

Water Sense for Kids by The EPA

There are many simple things we can do to save water. First, just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds six small sharks! The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash—then put them in the dishwasher. Second, taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long—try timing yourself with a clock next time you hop in!

This question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A: What is the central idea?

- Ⓐ Two simple steps can save water.
- Ⓑ Brushing your teeth can save water.
- Ⓒ A shower uses less water than a bath.

Part B: Which sentence supports the answer in Part A?

- Ⓐ There are many simple things we can do to save water.
- Ⓑ That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month.
- Ⓒ Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub.

Central Idea

Excerpt from *Shelters* by Thunderbolt Kids

Many of the trees in your town have been chopped down to make space for homes and other buildings. The birds that used to make their nests in the trees now have nowhere to safely lay their eggs! There are many more rats, mice, and other pests in the city because there are fewer and fewer birds to catch them! This is because many birds left to find safe places to build their nests and raise their chicks. Some of the birds that stayed behind tried to make nests on rooftops, but the people did not like the mess they made on their buildings and destroyed the nests. Other birds tried to build their nests on tall radio and television towers. But then the people could not get their televisions or radios to work properly, so they also broke their nests and chased the birds away. People then complain about all the pests that are in the city, but the birds do not have a safe place to live and help.

What is the article mostly about?

- Ⓐ Birds were chased off by the people they live near.
- Ⓑ Birds could no longer live in cities, and this led to more pests.
- Ⓒ People need to help birds build nests in the city.
- Ⓓ Birds are a very important part of the city.

Short Answer: Find two sentences that should be included in a summary of the passage.

Concrete & Abstract

Name: _____

THURSDAY

Is the underlined noun concrete or abstract?

1. His sadness left me feeling sad too.

abstract

2. My brother is on the school's soccer team.

3. The photos bring back lots of memories.

4. Her fear was caused by the roller coaster.

5. My dad makes the best pancakes ever!

6. The baby brings the mother lots of joy.

7. Makenna has a love for sweets.

8. Edit your paper using the red pens.

9. The car has a flat tire.

10. The sun can damage your eyes.

Name: _____

Date: **THURSDAY**

A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a base word that changes it's meaning of the word.

One meaning of the prefix *im-* is "not." When you add *im-* to a base word, the new word can mean the opposite of the base word.

Directions: Write the meaning of the underlined word and give a synonym. The first one has been done for you.

1. My art teacher says that it is okay for our work to be imperfect because it shows we are still learning.

not perfect flawed

2. The silly boys were acting in an immature manner out at recess.

3. It was impossible to hear the teacher give directions because the students were talking so much.

4. I was becoming impatient because our field trip was postponed due to the big storm.

5. It is impolite to call a teacher by their first name.