



Supporting details

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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The **main idea** of a story is what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The **details** are *small pieces of information* that make the story more interesting.

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As you read this story, think about what the whole story is *mostly about*.

The Milkmaid and her Pail

Patty the Milkmaid was going to market, carrying her milk in a pail on her head. As she walked along she began to plan what she would do with the money she would get for the milk. "I'll buy some chickens from Farmer Brown," she said to herself. "They will lay eggs each morning. Then I will sell the eggs to the parson's wife. With the money that I get from the sale of the eggs, I'll buy myself a pretty new dress and a ribbon for my hair. Patty walked along, thinking about the pretty new dress and the ribbon for her hair. She forgot all about the pail of milk she was carrying on her head. She tossed her head back, the pail fell off her head, and all the milk spilled out onto the road. So Patty had to go home and tell her mother what had happened. "Ah, my child," said her mother, don't count your chickens before they hatch."

1. What is this whole story *mostly about*?

- A. Patty the Milkmaid should have been more careful with the pail of milk.
- B. Patty the Milkmaid was carrying her milk to market.
- C. Patty the Milkmaid wanted a new dress and a ribbon for her hair.

2. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
 - A. Patty was on her way home from the market.
 - B. Patty was carrying the pail of milk on her head.
 - C. Patty was wearing a pretty new dress.

3. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
 - A. Patty decided to take the milk money home to her mother.
 - B. Patty wanted to buy chickens so that she could sell the eggs.
 - C. Patty was swinging the pail of milk as she walked along the road.

4. Which of these is a *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?
 - A. Patty's mother was angry when she learned what had happened.
 - B. Patty's mother thought Patty had bought chickens with the milk money.
 - C. Patty tossed her head back, and the pail fell off her head.

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5. What is another *small piece of information* from the story that makes the story more interesting?  

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6. How do the details in this story make the story more interesting?  

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## Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. Accept any reasonable response, such as, Patty thought that Polly Shaw would be jealous, but she didn't care about that.
6. Accept any reasonable response, such as, it is interesting to picture Patty tossing her head back, causing the pail of milk to fall off of her head.