

# Identify Main Idea

The **main idea** is the **author's message about a topic**.

When an author doesn't directly state the main idea in the form of a thesis, look at

## THE TITLE

Authors often hint at the main idea in the title.

## ● The Benefits of a Rescue Dog

by Topher Michaels

## THE FIRST PARAGRAPH

Authors often start with a story or example that communicates the main idea.

Evee was far from my idea of a good dog. I first saw her through the bars of a kennel at the local pet rescue. Her fur was matted and dirty, but something about her soft, brown eyes got to me. We decided to foster her. I would soon see that she was so much more than good.

When we first brought our dog Evee home, she refused to go for walks. Whoever was responsible for walking her had to slowly coax her, using treats and other training methods. Just a short month later, and Evee practically walks herself!

## KEY DETAILS

What idea do the examples, facts, and statistics support?

...a special-needs dog can offer just as much, if not more, unconditional love than those without special needs.

When school gets stressful, or if my friends let me down, Evee is always there to make me feel better.

## THE LAST PARAGRAPH

Authors often sum up by expressing the main idea either directly or with an example.

