

Listen and Learn

Main Topic

The **main topic** is what a text is mostly about. The **key details** in the text tell more about the main topic.



Look carefully at this example. Then follow the instructions below:

Have you ever patted a dog or a cat? Dogs and cats are domestic animals. Domestic animals depend on people for food, water, and shelter. All pets are domestic animals.

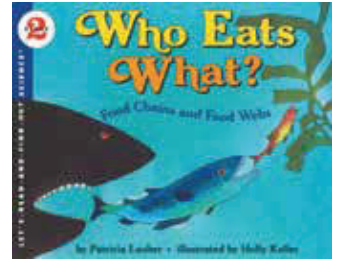
- ▶ To find the main topic, look for a sentence that tells what the text is mostly about.
- ▶ Look for the details. What information tells more about the main topic?


Think about what most of the details describe. This will help you find the main topic of a text.

Practice Together

Main Topic


in *Who Eats What?*, pages 4–6



 Underline the sentence that tells the main topic.

Hint: Remember: Details tell about the main topic.

- A caterpillar eats a leaf.
- The hawk eats the wren.
- The leaf, caterpillar, wren, and hawk are all part of a food chain.

 Write another key detail that tells about the main topic.

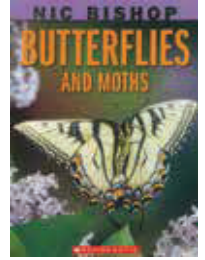
Hint: Who eats the caterpillar?


Turn Talk Name the topic. Then take turns naming key details from the text that tell about the topic.

Practice Together

Main Topic


in *Butterflies and Moths*, page 10



 Underline the sentence that tells the main topic.

Hint: What is the most important idea?

- Eggs can be shaped like balls, barrels, or saucers.
- Butterflies and moths begin life as eggs.
- Each egg has a tiny dot inside.

 Write another key detail that tells about the main topic.

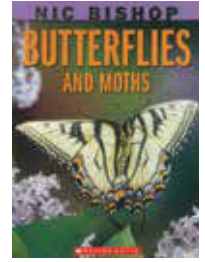
Hint: Why does the caterpillar's head move?


Turn Talk Name the topic. Then take turns naming key details from the text that tell about the topic.

Practice by Myself

Main Topic


in *Butterflies and Moths*, page 18



 Underline the sentence that tells the main topic.

Hint: What one thing is every sentence about?

- Some caterpillars are too disgusting to eat.
- Some furry caterpillars have stinging hairs.
- Some caterpillars have poison inside.

 Write another key detail that tells about the main topic.

Hint: What is something gross about caterpillars?

Turn Talk Name the topic. Then take turns naming key details from the text that tell about the topic.