

Name:

Date:

**ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE** ➔ **CENTRAL IDEA, INFERENCES, AND KEY****DETAILS**

The **central idea** of a passage or story is the most important concept that the author wants to get across to the reader.

- The central idea may be stated directly. The author tells you the main point.
- The central idea may not be stated—it may be **implied**. The reader needs to make an **inference**—a logical conclusion based on evidence.

For example, a story might describe a basketball team that works together to beat a team of more talented players that do not work well together. The reader can **infer** the central idea: hard work and togetherness are more important than sheer talent.

Looking at **key details** can help you determine the central idea. Ask yourself: Why did the author include these details? What idea do they lead to? Answering these questions can help you infer the central idea. For example, facts about coral reef destruction may lead to a central idea that coral reefs need to be protected.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage. Then, answer the questions.

Many people are frightened of bees, but we would be much worse off without them! Honeybees travel from flower to flower, gathering nectar that they turn into honey. A single colony, or hive, of honeybees can produce more than 50 pounds of honey a year!

Honeybees are social insects that play an important role in the food chain. But perhaps the most important thing that honeybees do is carry pollen from one flower to another. This is called pollination, and it is critical in order to get fruits and vegetables we eat every day, like apples, pears, almonds, squash, and cucumbers.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? Is it directly stated or implied? Explain.

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2. List three key details from the passage.

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3. What inference can you make from the details to support the central idea?

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage. Then, answer the questions.

Do you know how to eat? Of course we all know how to put food in our mouths. If you eat out a lot, you may be eating things that aren't good for you and missing a lot of the foods you need. For example, if you eat at fast food restaurants, you will eat foods cooked in oil that has been refried over and over, which can cause health problems. Rather than the unhealthy fats found in these foods, we should eat healthier fats, like avocados, coconut, olive oil, or nuts.

Eating at home brings its own challenges. Many people today spend less time cooking and eat more sandwiches and packaged foods. However, a sandwich can fill you up without providing a lot of nutrition. Packaged foods, on the other hand, have added sugar, corn oil, and corn starch, which can damage your health. Instead, a healthy diet contains lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts or other protein, and a balance of other foods.

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