



## Reading Skill: Identifying the main idea

### Learn together!

Some questions test your ability to find out what a piece of text or a paragraph is mainly about. There are three steps to answering such questions:

- 1** Find the topic sentence of each paragraph. The topic sentence tells the main idea of a paragraph. It is usually the first or the last sentence of the paragraph.
- 2** Try to summarise the main idea of each paragraph to understand the message that the writer wants to tell in general.
- 3** Answer the question. Keep in mind that the main idea of a piece of text summarises not only some sentences in the text, but everything the text talks about.

### Learn more!

If the question asks you to choose the best title, remember to skim through the whole text but not to focus on only one or two paragraphs. A title is better to be more general than specific.

### Give it a try!

**e.g.** Choose the best title for the story.

- A. *When Dominic Was in Primary 1*
- B. *The Powerful Dominic*
- C. *Dominic Is Always Helpful*
- D. *Dominic the Dinosaur*

Option A is not a good answer because it is **just a part of the setting** of the story. Option B is not the answer either because Dominic's strength is **not his only feature**. He is also very large in size. For option C, Dominic's helpful acts **are only mentioned in the last paragraph**. To sum up, the titles in options A, B and C **are not general enough**, so they fail to tell the main idea of the story. The story is **mainly about Dominic the Dinosaur**, so option D is the best answer.