



Comprehension & Language: Water

Main idea Any piece of writing is written because the author (*writer*) wants to tell us something. That will be the main idea of the paragraph or article.

Ask yourself: "What does the author want to tell me in this paragraph?"

Fact A fact is something that has been proven to be correct.

Example: The Sun gives light and heat to the Earth.

Opinion An opinion has not been proven and may or may not be true.

Example: The Blue Bulls rugby team will win on Saturday.

Read the following and answer the questions that follow:

Fresh Water – an Essential Resource

Water is needed for survival, that's why every drop counts. South Africa will not have any fresh water available by 2030, according to scientists. We have to start thinking differently about water and how we are going to save and protect water.

South Africa has access to a lot of sea water, but sea water is salty. Sea water can only be used by humans and animals if the salt is removed from the water. This is possible, but very expensive.

Most of the fresh water we use in our homes, comes from rivers. If we keep on polluting and poisoning our rivers, we will eventually not have enough fresh water to use.

- Circle the answer that you think is the **main idea** of the paragraph:
 - Humans cannot drink sea water as it is salty.
 - South Africans should not use river water as it is polluted.
 - South Africans should look for other ways to get fresh water and protect fresh water.
- Are the following **FACTS** or **OPINIONS**?
 - Sea water cannot be used by people. _____
 - South Africa will have no fresh water by 2030. _____
 - Water is needed for survival. _____
 - All the fresh water in our homes comes from rivers. _____

The LifeStraw

The LifeStraw was developed by Mr Frandsen. This device is designed to kill off bacteria and to improve the taste of water.

LifeStraw is especially useful in countries that do not have enough safe drinking water. Diarrhoea, among other illnesses, is spread through contaminated drinking water and is the cause of death of about 1,5 million children a year worldwide.



When you suck water through the remarkable LifeStraw, the water is cleaned and tastes better.

Vocabulary Builder

- device – object
- bacteria – germs that make you ill
- improve – make better
- diarrhoea – an illness that affects your tummy
- illnesses – diseases that make people sick
- contaminated – spoilt or made dirty
- remarkable – amazing, wonderful

Answer the following questions:

1. Who developed the LifeStraw? (1)

2. Name two things that the LifeStraw is designed for. (2)

3. Name one illness you can get from drinking contaminated water. (1)

4. Approximately how many children die yearly as a result of drinking dirty water? (1)

5. Explain how the LifeStraw should be used. (2)

Language in Context**Common Nouns**

A common noun is something that you can see and touch. It is either a thing, a place, a person or an animal.

Examples: table, chair, teacher, dog, man

Proper Nouns

A proper noun is a name that is given to something, e.g. to people, animals, towns, streets, books, movies, places, etc.

Proper nouns are always written in capital letters.

Examples: John, Centurion, Atterbury Road

Read the following paragraph, then sort the underlined common nouns and proper nouns under the correct heading.

Thembe and Zwe are playing in the shallow water of the river near their home.

They live in Soshanguve and go to school at Bokamosa Primary School. Their teacher, Mrs Kunene, taught them about water and how to keep water safe and protected. Zwe notices that Thembe's mother is washing the laundry in the river. He remembers that his teacher said this should not be allowed as it contaminates the water. Last week they had to visit the Motubatse Clinic as his little sister suffered from severe diarrhoea. He now understands that she became sick from drinking the dirty river water.

Common Nouns**Proper Nouns**

MEMO:

These are more advanced concepts, but crucial in all subjects. If you are able to find the main idea in paragraphs, learning will be so much easier. Differentiating between facts and opinions are also a valuable life skill. Discuss with them the examples of facts and opinions. Give a few examples of your own to explain this further.

1. Circle the answer that you think is the main idea of the paragraph:
 - a) Humans cannot drink sea water as it is salty.
 - b) South Africans should not use river water as it is polluted.
 - c) South Africans should look for other ways to get fresh water and protect fresh water.
2. Are the following FACTS or OPINIONS?
 - a) Sea water cannot be used by people. FACT
 - b) South Africa will have no fresh water by 2030. OPINION
 - c) Water is needed for survival. FACT
 - d) All the fresh water in our homes comes from rivers. OPINION

Answer the following questions:

1. Who developed the LifeStraw? (1)
Mr Frandsen
2. Name two things that the LifeStraw is designed for. (2)
It is designed to kill bacteria or germs in water and to improve the taste of the water.
3. Name one illness you can get from drinking contaminated water. (1)
Diarrhoea
4. Approximately how many children die yearly as a result of drinking dirty water? (1)
Approximately one and a half million children die yearly as a result of drinking dirty or contaminated water.
5. Explain how the LifeStraw should be used. (2)
Put the LifeStraw in the dirty water, then suck the water through the straw. The water will be clean and will taste better.

Read the following paragraph, then sort the underlined common nouns and proper nouns under the correct heading.

| Common Nouns | Proper Nouns |
|--------------|--------------|
| river | Thembe |
| home | Zwe |
| school | Soshanguve |

mother
laundry
teacher

Bokamoso Primary School
Mrs Kunene
Motubatse Clinic