

Finding the Main Idea and Details

Often the title of an article or story is the main idea. Create a title that names what the paragraph is mostly about.

Dr. Jen is a musher and definitely views her Siberians as working dogs. They have a purpose. Of course they provide a mode of transportation, but Jen said it's much more than that. They are so much fun! Pulling is what they desire. When one of their puppies first feels a harness, it's like a light bulb goes off in the puppy's brain. It starts running! Some people ask, "How do you keep them running?" The problem isn't with getting them to run. The problem is with the braking! When she's training dog teams, her discipline technique is to stop the team and hold them in place with the brake until they obey "Gee" and turn right instead of the way they want to go. Their reward for obeying her commands is they get to run! They learn, "If I go right when she says Gee, I get to run again!" It's like withholding the ball from a Labrador. Hold back the reward until they learn to listen. Her dogs' desire is to run and pull. The enthusiasm her dogs have is contagious. How can she not get excited when she walks into the dog area and all of them stand up, cheering to go?

Details in a story support the main idea. Please fill in three supporting details that point to the main idea.



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While running the Iditarod, Dr. Jen's team was going over Rainy Pass, which feels "like you are on top of world." There were no trees, the wind was blowing, and it was cloudy, snowing, and difficult to see the trail. Besides that, she was at the top of the pass at night. Jen was gung-ho to see the mountains around her. She kept shining her headlamp around in different directions, trying to see and enjoy the landscape. "I soon noticed that my leaders at the time, Chester and Kimber, kept veering right and left, trying to follow my headlight instead of the trail! I decided to keep my light on the trail to keep them going straight."

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