



Main Idea: Practice Activity

Directions: Read the stories and **identify** the main idea.

Note: These stories are for **Grades 3-5**, but **advanced K-2** readers can read and use their context clues to comprehend and complete these exercises.

Short Story #1:

It was a dark and stormy New York City night. Bob the midget sat on his pink couch watching his favorite show, “Bob the Builder.” Bob longed to be a builder. He wanted to wear that yellow hat, those overalls, that red and orange checkered shirt. In reality, Bob worked an office job. He was an economist. He would never become a cartoon builder! Then, the telephone rang. “Brrring! Brrring!” rang the phone. Bob picked it up and said, “Bob Dufriis here, what’s your business?” A robotic woman’s voice said back to him, “Your car’s warranty has expired. Please call 777-777-7777 to extend your car’s warranty.” Bob hung up, because he did not have a car. He took the subway to work everyday, so he did not need one. He looked back at the T.V. and an ad was playing. A man wearing a green suit announced, “We’re casting for a new “Bob the Builder” for our live action production of “Bob the Builder!” Bob was thrilled at this news!

He picked up his phone right away and dialed the number on the screen. A woman named Amy picked up. “This is the line for casting of the new Bob the Builder live action movie, are you interested?” she said. Bob responded, “Yes, I’d love to come in and audition. I’m a very avid fan of the Bob the Builder show, and I think I’d be great for the show. I also have an uncanny resemblance to Bob.” Bob and Amy worked out the details of his audition and determined that Bob would come in the following Saturday to audition. Bob went to sleep that night with a warm feeling in his chest. He would finally have the chance to make his dream come true, to become Bob the Builder. If he didn’t get this role, his world would be shattered. The following Saturday, Bob showed up at the casting call. Bob looked around and thought to himself, *“these guys don’t have anywhere near the acting chops I do. I’ll have a good chance at the role.”*

When it was his turn to audition, Bob walked into the audition room with confidence. Several judges sat at a table in the back of the room. When he saw Bob, the red haired casting director’s eyes widened. “You-you’re perfect!” He said. “Midget, light brown hair, dark eyes, you’re the spitting image of our Bob!” Bob was filled with glee! His looks alone had charmed the casting directors! He then started his audition, using the carefully practiced Bob the Builder voice he had been perfecting for years. When he was done, all three judges told him he would definitely be getting another call. A week later, Bob got a call from Amy. “You got the part!” said Amy. When “Bob the Builder: Live Action” came to theaters, it was a huge box office



success. Bob went to live on his own private island in Greece, and he built his dream house. He also married another midget named Wendy who was his co-star on Bob the Builder: Live Action.

*AMA Learning does not have any affiliation with Mattel/the Bob the Builder franchise, this was simply about a man named Bob with big dreams.

Main Idea:

Short Story #2:

Angelina felt worthless. It seemed like everyone at Woodhill Middle School knew what they were good at. She had decent grades, but she had no clubs, no sports, and no activities outside of school. She wanted to do things, but she just couldn't find the courage to start. She didn't have many friends either, as she was very quiet and had just transferred to Woodhill because her family moved. One day at lunch, as she was eating a grilled cheese sandwich, a girl came up to her. "Hi! I'm Courtney, what's your name?" the girl said cheerfully. "Hey! I'm Angelina, would you like to sit with me?" asked Angelina. When she had told her mom about her trouble making new friends, her mom had told her she should just invite someone to sit with her at lunch, which before had seemed hopeless, but now was quite easy to do! Courtney sat down across from her. She was new there too! Courtney was hoping to join the school's cooking club. She was also thinking of joining the tennis team! Outside of school, Courtney was a hip-hop dancer, and she was looking for a new studio to dance at. Angelina thought this all sounded great. Courtney was nervous to join the cooking club, so she asked Angelina to join with her. The next day, the cooking club had a meeting...and two new members. They made pizza! Angelina fell in love with cooking. She had always liked food, but the cooking club helped her realize that it wasn't difficult at all to make her favorite foods, and it was fun too! Clubs, she realized, were a great way to make new friends and see what activities interested her! Angelina and Courtney started spending more time together, and after a month they decided they were best friends. Courtney and Angelina decided to try out for tennis together, and they both made the team! One day, Angelina saw a poster for a film club. Naturally, Courtney came with her to check it out. They were both very inspired by the films the students in the club were producing, and they decided to make their own. A few months later, they entered a film into a contest and won the 1st place prize. Angelina no longer felt that she didn't have talent. She had lots of talent,



she just had to find it! Courtney and Angelina went on to do many more things together, and they always had fun!

Main Idea:

Short Story #3:

Finally, it was Tim's first day of third grade. He was going to a new school in a new town of Waco, Texas where he had just moved because his dad got a promotion in his job. He didn't know anyone from there. Scared, he mumbled to himself, "Will I be able to make new friends here?" He walked to school and entered the classroom. There, he saw about 5 groups of about 4 children in each. 2 groups had only girls in them and 2 groups only had boys. One group had 2 girls and 2 boys. He went to one of the groups with all boys and said, "Hi, I'm Tim. I'm new here. Can I hang out with you guys?" All of the boys stared at him and said, "No." Tim thought to himself, "Maybe I can go to the other all boys group!"

He walked over and introduced himself to that group, but they ignored him. Tim walked to the corner of the classroom and started crying and thinking to himself, "I will never be able to make any new friends!" Just then, the group with 2 boys and 2 girls walked over and introduced themselves to him and asked why he was crying. Tim introduced himself and said that he couldn't make any new friends. The kids said to him, "You can be our friend!" Tim smiled and said, "Thanks!" They went to their desks, and class started. Tim now had 4 new friends!

Main Idea:

Short Story #4:

Bella was the Princess of Sovendale, a small kingdom north of the Red Sea. Bella's parents, Esme and Edward were the King and Queen of Sovendale and wanted to make Bella the queen as soon as possible. However, Bella did not want to become the Queen. She loved her life as princess. She loved being carefree, spending time painting, talking with her best friends, Rosalie, Alice, and Jasper, and doing anything she wanted. She knew that if she became the Queen of Sovendale, that she would have a lot of duties to fulfill, and she was not ready for them.



One day King Edward and Queen Esme came into Bella's room and talked to her about becoming the Queen of Sovendale. Bella quickly said to them, "Mom, Dad, I don't want to become the Queen right now. I am too young and I'm not ready for all the things that I'll have to do when I'm Queen. Esme replied, "Sweetie, that is how your father and I felt before we became King and Queen, but we listened to our parents because they knew that we were ready. Now, we believe that you are ready for this. It is going to be a little hard at first, but we know that you can do it!" Bella thought about this then said, "Okay, if you think that I can do this then I will!" King Edward said, "Now that's my Bella. You will become Queen of Sovendale tomorrow!" The next day Bella became Queen of Sovendale and lived happily ever after!

Main Idea:



Sample Answer Key:

Short Story #1:

Bob auditions for the Bob the Builder: Live Action show.

Short Story #2:

Angelina discovers new activities with her friend Courtney.

Short Story #3:

Tim tries to find new friends.

Short Story #4:

Bella doesn't know if she should be Queen of Sovendale or not.