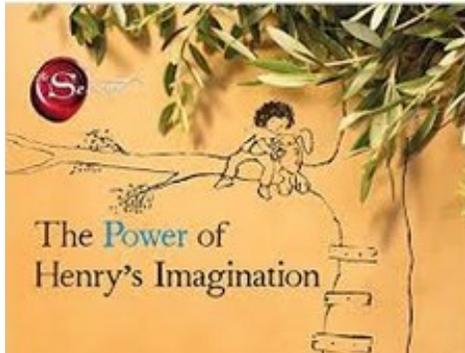


Writing Trait: Ideas ... main idea and detail

Big Ideas: Language and stories can be a source of creativity and joy;
everyone can be a reader and a writer

Learning Intention: We can create a class book using a main idea and details.

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By Skye Byrne

Before Reading

Curricular Competency: Exchange ideas and perspectives to build shared understanding

Share the front cover image of Henry and his toy rabbit in a tree. Ask children to think of outside play times they have enjoyed. After a few stories have been shared ask students to think of times in which they used their imagination during play time.

Ask students to use the front cover image and title to predict what this text might be about.

During Reading

Curricular Competency: Exchange ideas and perspectives to build shared understanding
Use age-appropriate reading, listening, and viewing behaviours and strategies to make meaning from texts

- Share stories of favourite stuffies. Perhaps make a class chart of graph with a quick description of the stuffy and its name.
- Discuss the feelings associated with losing something important.
- Make inferences about the connection between Henry and his Grandpa. Share thoughts regarding the people who are special in your life.

After Reading

Curricular Competency: Plan and create a variety of communication forms for different purposes and audiences

Ask students to pay extra special attention to the text structure when Henry starts to imagine his adventures with Raspberry. Re-read a few of these pages. Encourage students to listen carefully for a main idea and an interesting detail. Each of these pages offers a lovely balance between a quick statement of a main idea ~ *'Henry imagined that he and Raspberry were explorers climbing a mountain.'* Right after this main idea, the author shares a delightful detail that pulls us into the situation ~ *'They got caught in a terrible storm, and found shelter in a cave! Raspberry had to cook a can of beans for them to eat.'*

Dissect a few more pages for this balance of a main idea and rich details. Play a *'Spot the main idea and detail game!'* as each page is read aloud.

Do a quick class brainstorm in which imaginary places and sample details are shared. (see next page). If students illustrate their main idea and detail, a class book can be created! And we know how much our students love creating and reading their own books.

Imaginary Main Idea	Imaginary Details
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<i>Henry imagined that he and Raspberry were explorers climbing a mountain.</i>	<i>They got caught in a terrible storm, and found shelter in a cave! Raspberry had to cook a can of beans for them to eat.</i>
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<i>Henry imagined that he and Raspberry were pirates on a ship ...</i>	<i>full of rare treasures, steering their cargo through the crocodile-filled sea.</i>
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<i>Henry imagined that he and Raspberry were astronauts sent into space...</i>	<i>in their flying saucerpan to count all the stars in the universe.</i>
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<i>Henry imagined that he and Raspberry were dragon catchers...</i>	<i>walking silently trough the forest as they searched for the mysterious purple dragon.</i>
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<i>Time to create your own main ideas and details.</i>	
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