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Karen Haag

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Visualizing Main Idea

ENGAGE

- Come to a gathering space so the teacher can show sketches that match a familiar text. Either, show one the teacher has made or samples students in past classes have made (page 2-3).,
- Ask students to talk to a partner about what they notice.
- Reinforce that sketches are not perfect drawings. Sketches should match the words in the book – not all the words, but what they think is important enough to draw.
- Tell students that they will be sketching *while* teacher is reading.

TEACHER EXPLAINS LEARNING TARGET:

I can sketch pictures while listening to my teacher read aloud.

I can determine the main idea by comparing sketches.

EXPLORE

- Select text with a strong main idea that can be read in one sitting.
- Teacher reads the short text aloud.
- Students sketch on their white paper with their fine black markers while the teacher reads.

EXPLAIN

- When the teacher finishes, the students turn to talk in groups of 3 or 4.
- Students compare sketches. What is the same? What is different?
- Students share their discoveries with the class.

EXTEND

- Students stand in a whole-class circle and hold their sketches so that everyone can see them.
- Ask students to analyze the sketches to see what they have in common.
- Lead students to understand that authors write in main ideas and details. The main ideas are the big, important ideas – the pictures that are the main part of everyone’s paper. The details are the pictures that not everyone drew; they are the less important ideas.

STUDENTS EXPLAIN

- Return to the gathering spot.
- Ask students to explain to a partner what they learned about how to read better today. How would they explain what they learned about identify main ideas?

TEACHER EXPLAINS

When people read, they see pictures and feel emotions. If readers can tune in and pay attention to those sensory images (what you see, hear, feel, and smell), they can actually understand the book better. Readers like to talk to one another about books and characters to figure out main ideas. One way to determine the main idea is to think about what most people would draw as the most important idea.

EVALUATE LEARNING TARGETS

→ **EXIT SLIP** Ask students to write on an index card:

- (1) What is “main idea”? (2) What is one way to figure out the main idea of a story?

MATERIALS To Be Ready For Demonstration

- Space on the floor where everyone can gather
- White piece of paper/student
- Fine black marker/student
- Mount photos on SmartBoard p 2-3. (1st grade photos. You may want photos from older students.)
- Students in groups of 3 or 4
- Index card/student
- Write learning targets where they can be seen
- Text for reading



