

Main Idea and Details

- The **topic** is what a paragraph or article is all about.
 - The **main idea** is the most important idea about a paragraph, passage, or article.
 - **Details** are small pieces of information that tell more about the main idea.
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Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

William Shakespeare is considered by many to be the greatest writer of the English language. In fact, when most people think of the Renaissance in England, they probably think of him. He wrote 154 poems called sonnets, but he is most remembered for his 38 plays.

Shakespeare is probably the best-known writer of plays in the world. His writing still

influences writers today.

Today, 400 years after his death, audiences fill theaters to see his plays. High school and college students read, study, and perform them. Since 1899, many of his plays have been made into popular movies. We can be certain that the great work of Shakespeare will have a positive influence on readers of future generations.

1. What is the topic of the passage?

2. Write the sentence that gives the main idea of the passage.

3. What is one detail that tells more about the main idea?

4. What is another detail about the main idea?

5. Write a one-sentence summary of this passage.