



Think-Aloud (Step 5)

“A think-aloud is a way to provide *instruction* rather than just give *instructions*.”

(Daniels & Zemelman, 2004, p. 238).





Topic, Main Idea, and Summary

| Term | Definition | Example |
|-----------|---|--|
| Topic | Who or what the text is about; can often be expressed in one or two words. | Sharks |
| Main Idea | What the text says about the topic; can often be expressed in one sentence or less. | Sharks do many things. |
| Summary | A synthesis of the important ideas in a text; may be of varying length, expressed in the reader's own words and should reflect the structure of the text. | Sharks swim through the oceans hunting for prey, such as fish and seals. Sometimes, they work together to attack prey and may even engage in playful activities. |





Considerations for Teaching Students to **IDENTIFY TOPIC**

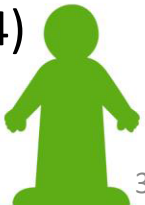




Identifying Topic

“Usually the topic will be apparent by looking at the title, pictures, or subheadings ... Higher level text may confuse students by dancing around the topic instead of stating it directly. In these cases, teach students to look for repeated references to help them find a topic.”

(Kissner, 2006, p. 34)

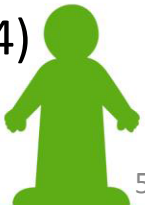




What is the Topic?

“You may have a wetland at your house and not even know it. Sometimes, *small depressions* in the lawn fill up with rain and hold the moisture for days at a time. These ‘*potholes*’ often come alive at night with creatures like spring peepers (tiny frogs), insects, and birds. When people avoid these *wet areas* and don’t mow *them*, they are providing a habitat for animals – without even knowing it!”

(Kissner, 2006, p. 34)





What is the topic?

One must be specially trained for a number of years to work with fireworks. Pyrotechnicians wear protective gear like gloves and goggles as they work carefully to ensure that none of the fireworks deploy before they are intended to do so. The fireworks' fuses are connected to long wires. The wires are long so the pyrotechnicians can ignite the fuse a safe distance away from the actual explosion. The crowd watching the show is also situated a fair distance away from the site of ignition.

