

## Main Idea and Details • Text Structure

- The **main idea** is the most important idea in a selection or a paragraph.
- The small pieces of information that tell about the main idea are the supporting **details**.
- Look for key words in the text, such as *who*, *what*, *where*, *why*, and *when*, to get **details** about the **main idea**.

**Directions** Read the following passage and complete the web below.

I was getting seasick again. The trip on the boat to America was taking longer than a 12-year-old girl like me ever imagined. I disliked the constant rocking and the smells of all the people crammed together in such a small space. It didn't seem like we'd ever get to the

place everyone called *New York*—the place where we'd soon be calling home. Suddenly, people started yelling. I ran outside to see what was going on. There, in front of me, stood a giant statue. They called it the Statue of Liberty. It was beautiful. We were home at last!

**Directions** Write what you think the story is about in box 1 below. Then write the details that support that idea in boxes 2–5.

**1. Main Idea**

**2. Detail**

**3. Detail**

**4. Detail**

**5. Detail**



**Home Activity** Your child learned about finding the main idea and details in a piece of writing. Read a short book together. Ask your child to tell you in just a few words what the book is about. Then ask him or her *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why* questions to find out the supporting details.