



Read the social studies passage. Use the Study Buddy and the Close Reading to guide your reading.

Genre: Social Studies



First, I'll try to figure out the main idea of what I read. Then I'll look for key details that support the main idea.

Close Reading

Paragraph 2 tells how hearing dogs alert their owners to sounds.

Circle the names of these sounds.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 each tell how hearing dogs help people. In both paragraphs, **underline** a sentence that tells the main idea of that paragraph.

Lending an Ear *by Michael Simon*

- 1 Mitzi, a Labrador retriever, is always by her owner Leah's side. This isn't just because Mitzi and Leah like each other. Mitzi is Leah's hearing dog. Leah is mostly deaf, and Mitzi's job is to alert Leah to sounds she cannot hear. Mitzi is happy as a constant, helpful companion for Leah.
- 2 Hearing dogs listen for sounds that people with hearing loss cannot hear. These dogs alert their owners to sounds by touching them with their nose or paw. After giving the alert, hearing dogs lead their owners to the source of the sound. Hearing dogs can be trained to recognize many household sounds. These sounds include doorbells, telephones, oven timers, alarm clocks, and fire and smoke alarms. Hearing dogs keep their deaf or partly deaf partners both active and safe by alerting them to such important noises.
- 3 Hearing dogs don't just help around the home. They also help their partners live and thrive in the world outside. People who can't hear sometimes feel lonely and isolated from other people. Hearing dogs can help their partners feel comfortable in public by making them aware of sounds. A hearing dog must wear an orange coat when in public. This tells other people that the dog's owner has some degree of hearing loss. Those other people can then adjust their own behavior when it is necessary.
- 4 Living and working side-by-side every day, hearing dogs and their partners become a special team—just like Mitzi and Leah.



Hints

Suppose a friend asks you what paragraph 1 is all about. Which is the best answer?

The correct choice is the one that the key detail most clearly supports.

What is the passage about? What key details most clearly support its main idea?

Use the Hints on this page to help you answer the questions.

1 What is the main idea expressed in paragraph 1?

- A Mitzi is always by her owner's side.
- B Mitzi is a hearing dog to Leah.
- C Mitzi and Leah like each other.
- D Leah, who is Mitzi's owner, is mostly deaf.

2 Read this sentence from paragraph 2. It is a key detail.

These sounds include doorbells, telephones, oven timers, alarm clocks, and fire and smoke alarms.

What idea in paragraph 2 does this key detail support?

- A Hearing dogs can be trained to recognize many sounds.
- B Hearing dogs use a nose or a paw to alert their owners to sounds.
- C Hearing dogs help their owners feel more comfortable in public.
- D Hearing dogs do many things to help people with hearing loss.

3 Describe the main idea of "Lending an Ear." Then find at least two key details and tell how they support the main idea.
