



# Midway Elementary Academic Support Team

## Reading, Math and Homework Strategies to Use at Home



How to schedule around your  
child's busy life!





n Help your child with math facts and reading Every Day.



n Help build the foundation so we can help them reach the top.



# Main Idea

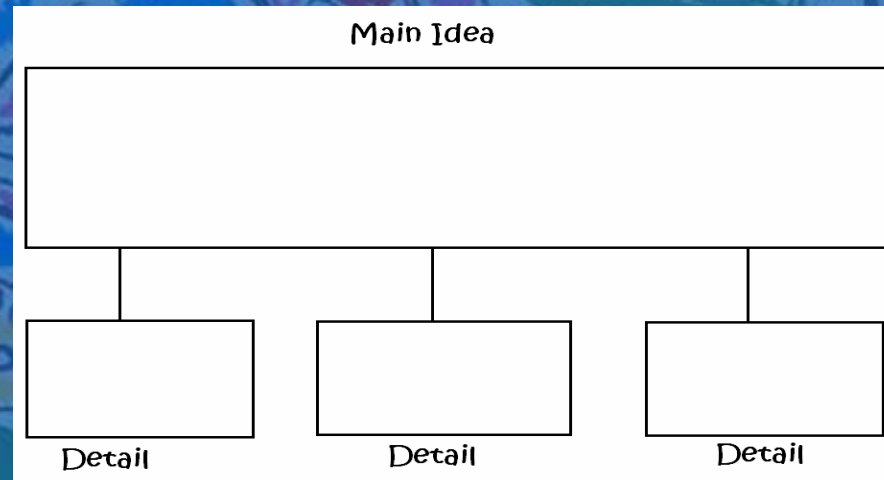
mostly about  
tells

most likely  
sums up

best title

another title

best  
main lesson



What is the passage **mainly about**? **mostly about**?

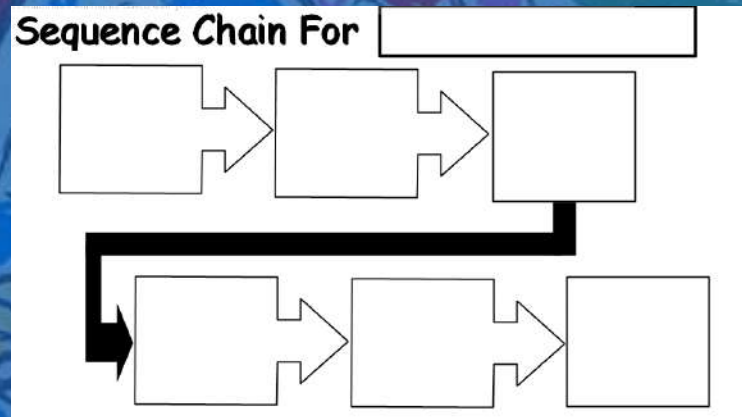
What is the **best title** for this story? **another title**?

What sentence **best tells** the main idea of the passage?

Sequencing

first, next, last  
in conclusion  
chronological order

before, after  
following



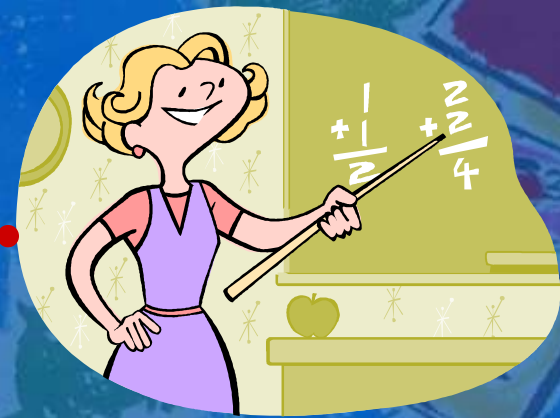
What happened last in the story?  
What was the first thing the author said?  
Put these events in order.



# Cause and Effect

**because**      **since**      **so that if....**  
**therefore**      **caused**      **effect**

**cause**



**cause**

**Since** it snowed last night, we will do which of the following?

What **effect** did the rain have on the garden?

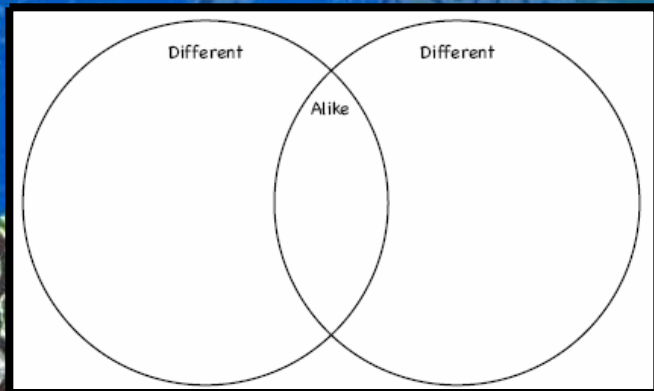
I got a B on my test, **so** I felt really good.

**effect**



# Compare and Contrast

compare contrast  
alike like similar  
different same  
on the other hand



How are email and postal mail **alike**?

What is the **difference** between Nemo and Dory?

How does the mouse **compare** to a hero?





## Fact and Opinion

**facts** – names, places, dates, times

**opinions** – think, feel, imagine, advice

| Facts | Opinions |
|-------|----------|
| 1.    | 1.       |
| 2.    | 2.       |
| 3.    | 3.       |
| 4.    | 4.       |



Which of the following statements is a **fact**? (or **opinion**)  
How do you **think** the character should solve his problem?  
According to the author, which of the following is **true**?





## Inferences

clues believe infer  
probably guess  
conclusion



What **probably** caused the car to wreck?

How can you **infer** that the author is a healthy eater?

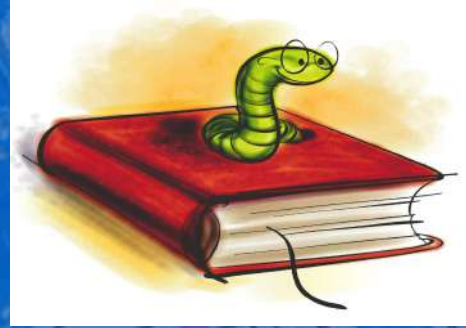
What **clues** led you to **believe** that Cody was joking?



# A Parent's Guide to Midway's Handy Helpers



Midway Handy Helpers give students something to do when they get stuck on a tricky word. Instead of asking the teacher or their parent for help, students can try out the Handy Helpers to figure out the word themselves. Sometimes you can try one Handy Helper and get the word. Sometimes, you have to try a combination of Handy Helpers to figure out the tricky word. But, we never give up!



# WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY TWENTY MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?

Let's figure it out mathematically!

Student A reads for 20 minutes five nights of every week.

Student B reads only 4 minutes a night ... or not at all.

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.

Student A reads 20 minutes x 5 times a week = 100 minutes per week.

Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes per week.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks a month.

Student A reads 400 minutes a month.

Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9-months/school year.

Student A reads 3600 minutes in a school year.

Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.



- n **Student A** practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days year.
- n **Student B** gets the equivalent of only two whole school days of practice.
- n By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have
- n read the equivalent of 12 school days. One would expect the gap of information retained
- n will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you
- n think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?
- n Some questions to ponder:
- n Which student would you expect to read better?
- n Which student would you expect to know more?
- n Which student would you expect to write better?
- n Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- n Which student would you expect to be more successful in school . . . and in life?





# Practicing Math Facts at Home

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Practicing math facts the same way over and over is boring to you and your child. Below are some other ways to practice math facts. Set a goal of practicing 5-10 minutes a night and allow your child to choose how they want to practice. Here is a bunch of different ways to practice so that you can avoid the dreaded phrase "I'm bored."





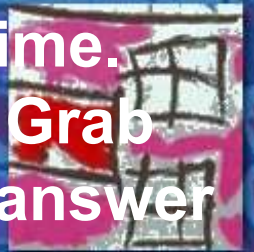
**For Children who Learn Best through Action**  
Grab the jump rope and focus on a specific set of math facts. Chant the math facts while jumping rope first. Go through those math facts 2-3 times. Then switch and you say the first part of the number sentence and let him-or her fill in the blank. This same activity can be done bouncing a ball, playing catch or shooting baskets.



Get two dice. The child rolls the dice, and then adds or multiplies the numbers, and says the answer. The parent checks the answer and tallies the number of correct answers in a minute. Set a goal with the child to increase the number of correct answers over time.



Draw a number line with chalk on the driveway. Grab some flash cards and instead of having the child answer orally have them jump, hop or skip to the answer.



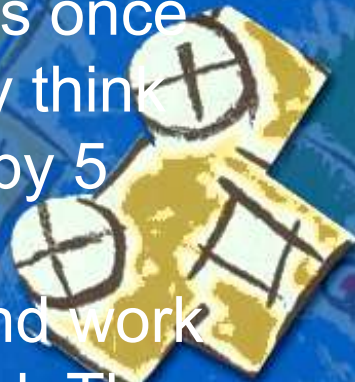
## For Children Who Learn Best by Seeing

Make two sets of cards- 1 set has the answers and 1 set has the problem. Lay the answer cards out in a line and have the child hold the problem cards. Set the timer for 75 seconds (longer if needed so that they child has success). Start the timer and the child tries to match the problem to the answer in the time allowed. Do this once or twice and put it away. The next day ask if they think they can do it in less time. Decrease the time by 5 seconds and encourage them to try it.

Visit <http://www.mathsisfun.com/tables.html> and work through a times table saying the problem out loud. The table will show the student the problem and the answer two ways: on the table and in problem format.

Here is an interactive addition table.

[http://www.aplusmath.com/cgi-bin/Homework\\_Helper/atable](http://www.aplusmath.com/cgi-bin/Homework_Helper/atable)





## For Children who Learn Best by Listening

Some children learn best by singing or saying the information out loud. Schoolhouse Rock is a good example of this and is still around. The lyrics and music are available on the sight and the CD is also available for purchase.

<http://www.school-house-rock.com/multiplicationrock.html>

Another way to help children learn through hearing is to allow them to make up a song or chant that helps them remember.

Focus on one selection and then give the child time to develop the chant/song to practice.

There are additional songs out there to help children learn their facts. Teacher stories and book stores often have a selection of listen and learn tapes or CDs.





## For Children who Learn Best by Touching

Grab a yardstick. Give the child two numbers to add or subtract. The child touches the beginning number with one hand and counts up or down the other number to arrive at the answer.

Get a hundred's chart and two pennies or chips that cover the numbers on the board.

(<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/math/games/100-number-chart-one.html>) Give the child two numbers to add or subtract. The child places the first chip on the beginning number and counts up or down the other number to arrive at the answer. The second chip goes on the answer.



## **For Children who Learn Best on the Computer**

<http://www.aaastudy.com> allows you to pick the level of math and the degree of difficulty. The child then chooses a game where they can practice that type of math.

[http://www.aplusmath.com/cgi-bin/Homework\\_Helper/mtable](http://www.aplusmath.com/cgi-bin/Homework_Helper/mtable)

This is an interactive multiplication table. Students can use to play Guess and Check. Get a set of flash cards. Have the student pull the card and tell you what they think the answer is. Then type the problem in to the interactive table and check their results.

Midway's Mustang Room is another great place to locate math

practice web sights.

<http://www.forsythcountyschools.org/its/kadkins/mustang/kids.htm?1303Nav=|&NodeID=2564>

Kids can quiz themselves or practice math facts with this site.

<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/quiz.html>

Houghton Mifflin is the math series we are using and they have a web site that goes with the book and allows kids to practice. Choose the correct grade level and then go into extra practice.

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmm/>

Any Questions???

