Main Topic in Paragraphs

Grade 2 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Towers on the Shore

For hundreds of years, lighthouses have helped ships stay safe near the shore. Many coasts have rocks and sandbars hidden under the water. At night or in thick fog, sailors cannot see these dangers. A lighthouse warns them to keep away. It also helps them find the way into a harbor.

The light at the top of the tower is special. Long ago, keepers burned oil in big lamps. Today most lighthouses use electric lights. Around the light sits a large glass lens with many rings. The lens bends the light into one strong beam. Sailors can spot some beams from more than twenty miles away.

Each lighthouse has its own signal, so sailors know which one they see. Some lights flash once every few seconds. Others flash twice, or shine without blinking. In the daytime, sailors look at the paint instead. One tower may have black and white stripes, while another has red bands.

In the past, a keeper lived beside each lighthouse. Every evening, the keeper climbed the stairs to light the lamp. Keepers wound gears that turned the lens, and they cleaned the glass each morning. Now most lighthouses run on their own with machines and timers. Some old keepers' houses have become museums that families can visit.

1. Which sentence tells the main topic?
   - The light at the top of the tower is special.
   - Each lighthouse has its own signal, so sailors know which one they see.
   - For hundreds of years, lighthouses have helped ships stay safe near the shore.

2. Which detail supports the idea that keepers worked hard?
   - Keepers wound gears that turned the lens, and they cleaned the glass each morning.
   - Now most lighthouses run on their own with machines and timers.
   - Some old keepers' houses have become museums that families can visit.

3. Which topic is too small to be the main topic?
   - buildings found near the ocean
   - lighthouses and how they help sailors
   - the stripes painted on one tower

4. Why does the author tell about fog in paragraph 1?
   - to show when sailors most need a lighthouse
   - to tell what keepers did each morning
   - to explain how the lens bends light

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Answer Key - Grade 2 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Read the text. Circle the best answer.

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