

Mrs. Bolen  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Main Idea and Poetry Study Guide

#### Vocabulary

#### Main Idea and Supporting Details

#### Genre of Poetry

#### Poetry

Main idea: is what the paragraph is mostly telling you about. The main idea is the big picture in a passage. The main idea is the message the author is telling you and they give smaller details to support that main idea.

#### Practice:

When sailors long ago glimpsed a smooth body, round head, and fluked tail parting the surface of the sea, they believed they had just sighted a mermaid. Biologists now know that what these sailors had seen was no mermaid; it was the dugong, a sea mammal related to a manatee. The dugong is bulky, its skin thick and tough, and it has 2 front flippers that are used for steering and a fluked tail for propulsion. It can grow as long as 11 feet and weigh up to 800 lbs- as much as a cow! Indeed, dugongs are also called "sea cows" because they graze on beds of sea grass.

1. What is the main idea of the selection?
  - a. Dugongs are known as "sea cows"
  - b. Dugongs have been mistaken for mermaids
  - c. The dugong is a sea mammal that resembles other creatures
  - d. The dugong has a smooth body, round head, and fluked tail.
2. Which of the following is a supporting detail of the main idea?
  - a. Sailors discovered that the dugong was actually a mermaid
  - b. The dugong has several names
  - c. The dugong uses its nose for steering
  - d. The dugong is related to another large sea mammal

Genre of Poetry: lines of poetry (verses) are written in stanzas

- a. May include patterns of rhyme to capture the reader's interest
- b. Uses carefully selected words and phrases to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind
- c. very concise, and often musical/emotional language.
- d. Every word counts
- e. Various techniques in writing poetry

#### Techniques:

1. Sensory Language: writing or speech that appeals to 1 or more of the 5 senses
2. Figurative Language: imaginative writing, not meant to be taken literally (SHAMPOO)
3. Sound Devices: add musical quality to written language