

Name _____

Date _____

Finding the Main Idea

Complete the sentence stating the main idea.

Have you ever noticed how ridiculous you think superstitions are, unless they are yours? People in our country have many superstitions, most of which deal with having good or bad luck. Many people believe you will have seven years of bad luck if you break a mirror. Others believe that if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck. Some superstitions even come with a built in antidote. For example, if you spill salt, you must take a pinch and throw it over your shoulder to prevent bad luck. All of them aren't gloom and doom though. For instance, if you find a four-leaf clover you will have good luck, as well as if you find a penny face-up. Other cultures have superstitions as well. When a Chinese child loses a baby tooth, it doesn't get tucked under the pillow for the tooth fairy. An upper tooth gets planted in the ground, so the new tooth will grow in straight and healthy. A lost bottom tooth gets tossed up to the rooftops, so that the new tooth will grow upwards. In Ireland, two people washing their hands in the same sink at the same time means disaster. So as you can see, if you are a superstitious person, you must go through life being very careful!

The main idea of the paragraph is _____

Many people believe that books will become history now that the digital reader has been introduced. But book lovers do not agree. They argue that people will always want to collect books by their favorite authors and display them in their books cases. Others argue that part of the reading experience is the feel and smell of a new book and the pleasure derived from turning the pages as you read. Book collectors will argue that people will always value the printed word; therefore, books will always be in demand even if digital access to the same book is available. On the more practical side, avid book readers argue that since a book doesn't rely on batteries, they will never die on you. On the other hand, people who are more technologically inclined argue that the convenience of a digital reader makes it more appealing for them. They can download books from anywhere and not have to be bothered with whether to keep the book and find a place to store it, sell, or give it away. All they have to do is either delete it or archive it into the reader's memory. Whether you like real books or digital books, there is nothing better.

The main idea of the paragraph is _____

If you are not from London, you might think people were talking about a huge man when you hear them refer to Big Ben. But to those who have visited London will tell you, Big Ben is a huge clock tower. However the name, Big Ben, actually refers to the 13.5 ton bell that chimes each hour. There are four other smaller bells that chime each quarter hour. Built in 1859, this huge clock tower has faces that point in all four directions so that all Londoners can know the time. The hands of clock are nine feet long with the minute hands reaching 14 feet. The dial of each face measures 23 feet in diameter. Even the numbers on the clock's faces are super sized with each being two feet high. You can climb 290 steps to the clock room if you want to see the inner workings of this huge clock. Londoners are so used to hearing the bell ring, often times not even hearing it ring. However, visitors to the city are often awakened all during the night with each toll of the bell.

The main idea of the paragraph is _____



Name _____

Date _____

Finding the Main Idea

Complete the sentence stating the main idea.

Have you ever noticed how ridiculous you think superstitions are, unless they are yours? People in our country have many superstitions, most of which deal with having good or bad luck. Many people believe you will have seven years of bad luck if you break a mirror. Others believe that if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck. Some superstitions even come with a built in antidote. For example, if you spill salt, you must take a pinch and throw it over your shoulder to prevent bad luck. All of them aren't gloom and doom though. For instance, if you find a four-leaf clover you will have good luck, as well as if you find a penny face-up. Other cultures have superstitions as well. When a Chinese child loses a baby tooth, it doesn't get tucked under the pillow for the tooth fairy. An upper tooth gets planted in the ground, so the new tooth will grow in straight and healthy. A lost bottom tooth gets tossed up to the rooftops, so that the new tooth will grow upwards. In Ireland, two people washing their hands in the same sink at the same time means disaster. So as you can see, if you are a superstitious person, you must go through life being very careful!

The main idea of the paragraph is superstitions are believed in by many.

Many people believe that books will become history now that the digital reader has been introduced. But book lovers do not agree. They argue that people will always want to collect books by their favorite authors and display them in their books cases. Others argue that part of the reading experience is the feel and smell of a new book and the pleasure derived from turning the pages as you read. Book collectors will argue that people will always value the printed word; therefore, books will always be in demand even if digital access to the same book is available. On the more practical side, avid book readers argue that since a book doesn't rely on batteries, they will never die on you. On the other hand, people who are more technologically inclined argue that the convenience of a digital reader makes it more appealing for them. They can download books from anywhere and not have to be bothered with whether to keep the book and find a place to store it, sell, or give it away. All they have to do is either delete it or archive it into the reader's memory. Whether you like real books or digital books, there is nothing better.

The main idea of the paragraph is whether books become history due to the digital reader.

If you are not from London, you might think people were talking about a huge man when you hear them refer to Big Ben. But to those who have visited London will tell you, Big Ben is a huge clock tower. However the name, Big Ben, actually refers to the 13.5 ton bell that chimes each hour. There are four other smaller bells that chime each quarter hour. Built in 1859, this huge clock tower has faces that point in all four directions so that all Londoners can know the time. The hands of clock are nine feet long with the minute hands reaching 14 feet. The dial of each face measures 23 feet in diameter. Even the numbers on the clock's faces are super sized with each being two feet high. You can climb 290 steps to the clock room if you want to see the inner workings of this huge clock. Londoners are so used to hearing the bell ring, often times not even hearing it ring. However, visitors to the city are often awakened all during the night with each toll of the bell.

The main idea of the paragraph is Big Ben.

