

TALKING ABOUT: Main Ideas and Details

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This activity is the practice of *listening...talking...expressing a point of view...summing up what happened in the story.*

It involves children saying what they have listened to or read, in one or two words, or a phrase, or in more detail.

Who?
Did what?
When?
Where?
How?
Why?

Read and reread the story, and then take the books away. Ask:

What is the story about?
Who was in the story?
Describe them.
What happened?
What does it tell us?

Prompt if the answer is not inclusive enough. (*What else happened?*) There are many possibilities. For example: *Birds and People* is about the differences among birds; how they are alike, yet different in looks, sound and habitats. The book talks about differences among tribes and compares people and Indian tribes with birds — how they are different, yet alike. All of the children's ideas may be put on the chalkboard or on chart paper.

Afterwards, the story may be retold from beginning to end.

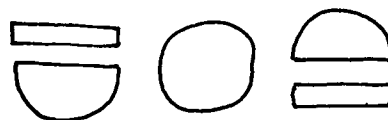
John said: *The story is about birds.*

Cary said: *Some birds swim and some birds don't swim.*

Jason said: *Some birds eat seeds and some birds eat meat.*

Lodi said: *This story is also about Indian tribes.*

And so on...



<i>ducks</i>	<i>chickadee</i>
<i>magpies</i>	<i>Skokomish</i>
<i>Crow</i>	<i>eating seeds</i>
<i>fly high</i>	<i>Blackfeet</i>
<i>wobbling</i>	<i>sage hen</i>