Notes

Chatpter #1:  Vocabulary in context

Types of Context in clues

·         Examples

·         Synonyms

·         Antonyms

·         General Sense of the Sentence or Passage  (pg 18)

Words that are in italic or boldface are important words in any reading.

If there’s a word you don’t understand reading the context around the word that will give you an idea of what the word means.

Chapter#2: Main idea

What is main idea? The main idea is the most important key to good comprehension. Sometimes the main idea is easy to understand. Pg 55

A way to think about the main idea is to think of an umbrella. The main idea would be on the top of the umbrella and on the bottom would be the supporting details. In the supporting detail there would be examples, causes, reason or facts to help you understand the main idea.

Look for general versus Specific ideas. Pg 58

Some words that will help to find the main idea are several kinds of, three advantages of, various reasons for, several causes of, five steps, a number of effects. Some time you use addition words before the supporting details. This is a big help to find the main idea. Pg 70

Most of the times the main idea will be in the first few sentences, if not it will be in the first or second paragraph.

 Sentence 1 introduces the topic of punishment for crime by making a general statement about today’s typical punishment. Sentence 2 presents the main idea—that punishments in the past were swift and often violent. Sentences 3-7 describe specifics of past punishments that support the main idea.

Sentences 1 and 2 introduce the comparison of two types of volcanoes—those that erupt and those that don’t. Sentence 3 states the main idea—the general explanation for the difference between the two types of volcanoes. Sentences 4-8 give a detailed explanation of the two types of lava and how that causes some volcanoes to erupt while others do not erupt

Sentences 2-6 give specific details about the length of the workweek in the late 1800s. These details support the main idea presented in sentence 1—that today’s forty-hour workweek is considerably shorter than the workweek in the late 1800s.

Sentences 1 and 2 introduce the topic of the All-American Girls’ Professional Baseball League by telling the reader why it was formed and who was involved in it. Sentences 3 and 4 describe details of the sexist restrictions that were placed on the members of the league. Sentence 5 states the main idea of the passage—that women in the league had to endure a degree of sexism and outside control that would not be tolerated today.

Sentences 1-3 introduce the general topic of beasts of burden and their willingness to work. Sentence 4 states the main point—that the llama refuses to be overworked. Sentences 5-10 give specific details that illustrate the llama’s methods for refusing to be overworked.

Sentence 1 states the main idea that, in elementary and middle schools, the predominant element of class sessions is questions asked by teachers. Sentences 2-7 present statistics gathered in surveys that support the main idea.

Sentences 1-8 list several elements that are necessary for problem solving. Taken together, these elements lead to the main idea—that problem solving is the most complex kind of learning—stated in sentence 9.

Sentence 1 introduces the topic of effective punishment. Sentence 2 states the main idea—punishment sometimes actually encourages bad behavior. Sentences 3-10 give two examples of specific situations that illustrate and support the main point.

Sentence 1 states the main idea of the passage—that there are many ways to make a discussion of elderly care with an aging parent more productive. Sentences 2-14 support the main point by suggesting specific things one can do to make such a discussion more productive.

Chapter#3: supporting details

Supporting details are reasons, examples, facts, step, or other kind of evidence that explain a main idea. Pg 103

Outlining: the major details explain and develop the main idea and the minor details gelp fill out and make clear the major details. Pg 105

Look for words that tell you a list of details is coming: several kind, a number of, four steps, various causes a series of, and among the results. pg106

Look for words that signal major details: one. First(of all), second(ly), third(ly), to began with, for one thing, other, another and also. Pg 107

Maps are very visual outlines.

The three major supporting details describe the negative effects of abnormally high testosterone: 1) likelihood of drug and alcohol dependency, 2) likelihood of unemployment, and 3) likelihood of committing violent crimes.

The three major supporting details give examples of the differences in speech patterns between men and women: 1) women use more words that emphasize other words, 2) women use more words that weaken other words, and 3) women ask more questions than men.

Four major supporting details are given that show the wide variation in the views of Americans on the proper role of government in people’s lives: 1) Conservatives think that government should uphold social values but not provide economic support; 2) liberals think that government should not interfere with social values but should give economic support; 3) populists think that government should play a role in both social and economic matters; and 4) libertarians think that government should not intervene in social or economic matters

The major supporting details are the definitions of deductive and inductive reasoning. The example given for each type of reasoning is a minor supporting detail.

The first sentence says that the book describes people’s habits. The title of the book discussed in the paragraph is *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Each of the major supporting details describes a different habit of happy, successful people.

Chapter#4 Implied main ideas

Sometimes the main idea may be implied-only suggested by the supporting details and not clearly stated in one sentence.

Sentence 1 introduces the idea that there is disagreement over the true nature of wolves. Sentence 2 states the central point—that stories about wolves show us that some people think wolves are wonderful and others think that they are dangerous. Sentences 3-13 give examples of stories that show these two contrasting opinions.

Sentences 1 and 2 introduce the topic of fingerprint evidence and the problem that it can lead to false convictions. Sentence 3 states the central point—that fingerprint evidence is not necessarily a foolproof way to solve a crime. Sentences 4-8 explain how to get clear fingerprints that can be clearly linked to one individual. Sentences 9-13 describe how difficult it can be to get a clear fingerprint at a crime scene. Sentences 14-17 draw the conclusion that it is often a matter of judgment as to whether or not a crime scene fingerprint can be matched to a specific individual; this conclusion supports the central point.

Sentence 1 introduces the idea that English may get cluttered over time, like an attic or garage. Sentence 2 states the central point—that there are some words and phrases in English that ought to be retired. Sentences 3-24 give examples of words and phrases that Andy Rooney thinks ought to be retired. Sentence 25 brings the list to a close

Sentences 1 and 2 introduce the topic of people not listening carefully. Sentences 3-19 describe five problems that make it difficult to listen carefully. Sentence 20 states the central point—that there are several factors that make it impossible to listen effectively all the time.

Sentence 1 introduces the topic of understanding the common cold. Sentence 2 states the central point of the passage—that personality, stress, and social life can influence one’s vulnerability to cold symptoms. Sentences 3-18 discuss studies that illustrate and support the central point.

Sentences 1-4 describe the general problem of cutbacks in school programs and introduce the topic of manual arts programs. Sentence 5 states the central point—that the losses from the elimination of manual arts programs are far-reaching and devastating. Sentences 6-15 then support the central point by detailing three significant losses that result from the elimination of manual arts programs.

Sentence 1 introduces the topic of lies. Sentence 2 states the central point—that people lie either to keep relationships running smoothly or to gain something for themselves. Sentences 3-11 support the central point by describing and giving examples of lies told to keep relationships running smoothly. Sentences 12-20 support the central point by describing and giving examples of lies told to gain something.