

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

# Central Ideas and Details

A central idea of a text is one of the main points the author is making.

(Sometimes a central idea is called a main idea.)

A central idea can always be supported with details from the text.

**Directions:** Follow the prompts below to explore the central ideas and supporting details in "The Shattered Sky."

**1. Reread the section "Bad News." Which statement below BEST expresses the central idea of this section?**

- Ⓐ Some soldiers in Halifax had come back from the war with serious injuries.
- Ⓑ World War I was a frequent topic of conversation in Noble's seventh grade class.
- Ⓒ Halifax Harbor was a busy transportation hub during World War I.
- Ⓓ German U-boats had sunk some 3,000 vessels by 1917.

**2. Read the central idea of the section "Shock Wave" stated in the box below. Then read the lines from the article listed under it. Which detail does NOT support the central idea?**

**Central Idea:**

**The explosion of the *Mont-Blanc* was extremely powerful and destructive.**

- Ⓐ "Fortunately for Noble, the wave did not reach him." (p. 9)
- Ⓑ "In a fraction of a second, the *Mont-Blanc* was ripped to pieces." (p. 8)
- Ⓒ "The explosion triggered an enormous wave that surged out of the harbor and crashed through Dartmouth and Halifax, toppling more buildings and sweeping people away." (p. 9)
- Ⓓ "Doors flew off hinges, trees snapped in two, windows shattered, and shards of glass shot through the air like missiles." (p. 9)

I chose \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Read the details from the section "Rush to Help" listed below. In the box, write a central idea that these details support.**

**Central Idea:**

**Detail 1:** "Neighbors pulled each other from the burning wreckage of their homes." (p. 9)

**Detail 2:** "Buildings that still stood were quickly converted to hospitals." (p. 9)

**Detail 3:** "By the afternoon, trains loaded with nurses, doctors, firefighters, and supplies were streaming into Halifax." (p. 9)

- 4. Consider one central idea of the whole article, written below. We wrote one detail from the article that supports this idea. Write two more supporting details in the spaces provided.**

**Central Idea:**

**The 1917 Explosion in Halifax Harbor was a terrifying catastrophe.**

**Supporting detail 1:**

*"Some 2,000 people had died, and at least 9,000 had been injured." (p. 10).*

**Supporting detail 2:**

**Supporting detail 3:**