

Muhammad Ali

• Reading Comprehension •

Activity 1 Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.
Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

Americans are sent to Vietnam to fight. Many American soldiers die. Many people in the U.S. protest the war.

Stop and think: Do you think people should have to fight if their country goes to war? Why or why not?

Ali does not want to serve in the Army. Ali does not want to kill people. In the U.S., black people cannot buy a cup of coffee in some places. Why should a black man risk his life for the U.S.?

Stop and think: Ali suffers from racism. Imagine you are Ali. Would you risk your life for your country? Why or why not?

Ali pays a big price for not going to war. In 1967, Ali loses his license to box. He loses his world boxing title. Ali gets a \$10,000 fine.

Stop and think: Do you think that Ali pays a big price? Why or why not?



Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Main idea	Details
Ali is a great boxer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ali wins six Golden Gloves titles. Ali starts to box at the age of 12. ✓ Ali wins a gold medal at the Olympics.
1. Black people do not have equal rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Black people see Ali as a hero. (b)___ Black people suffer from racism. (c)___ Black people are treated as second-class citizens.
2. Ali is more than a boxer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a)___ Ali changes his name. (b)___ Ali fights racism. (c)___ Ali floats like a butterfly.

Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
The boy is in tears. His new bike is stolen.	The boy is sad. The boy is angry.
1. Clay trains six days a week. He does not smoke. He does not drink.	
2. Ali's fans do not want him to get hurt.	

Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.
Facts can be proven.
Opinions are personal beliefs.

- Clay changes his name. ____
Clay shakes up the world when he changes his name. ____
- Ali pays a big price for not going to war. ____
Ali loses his licence to box. ____
- Ali finds magic in a boxing gym. ____
Ali learns to box in a boxing gym. ____

Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.
The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
Who teaches Clay to box?	<i>A Boy Learns to Box</i>	<i>a boxing coach</i>
1. When does Clay become a pro boxer?		
2. When does Clay win his first world championship?		
3. When does Ali retire?		

Activity

6

Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas to their lives.

Idea



Your Life

Ali does not box for 3 1/2 years, but his fame grows. Ali gives speeches. He talks about life. He talks about civil rights. He talks about black pride. Ali becomes a hero of the people.

Like Ali, other famous people become activists for causes.

Can you name other famous people who are activists?

Why do you think people listen to famous people who are activists?

Why do you think famous people become activists?

fame? money? ego? belief?

Do you think famous people who become activists are experts? Or do they just want to state their opinions?

If you were famous, which cause would you be an activist for? Why?

How can you support this cause without being famous?



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Jane Fonda speaks for the Feminist Initiative Party. (Stockholm, September 15, 2006)

• Writing •

Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about famous people who become activists. Use your ideas from page 8.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

Paragraph 1

People listen to famous people who become activists because _____.

I think famous people who become activists _____.

Paragraph 2

If I were famous, I would be an activist for _____ . This cause is important because _____.

I'm not famous, but I can support this cause by _____.

Read each paragraph out loud.
Which paragraph do you like better?
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

Good writers know that writing is a process.
Good writers think of ideas before they write.
Good writers check their writing.



Activity 2 Organize Ideas



Look at the idea map.

What is the topic of the idea map?

What are the 3 main ideas?

Add these details to the idea map.

Put the number in the correct box.

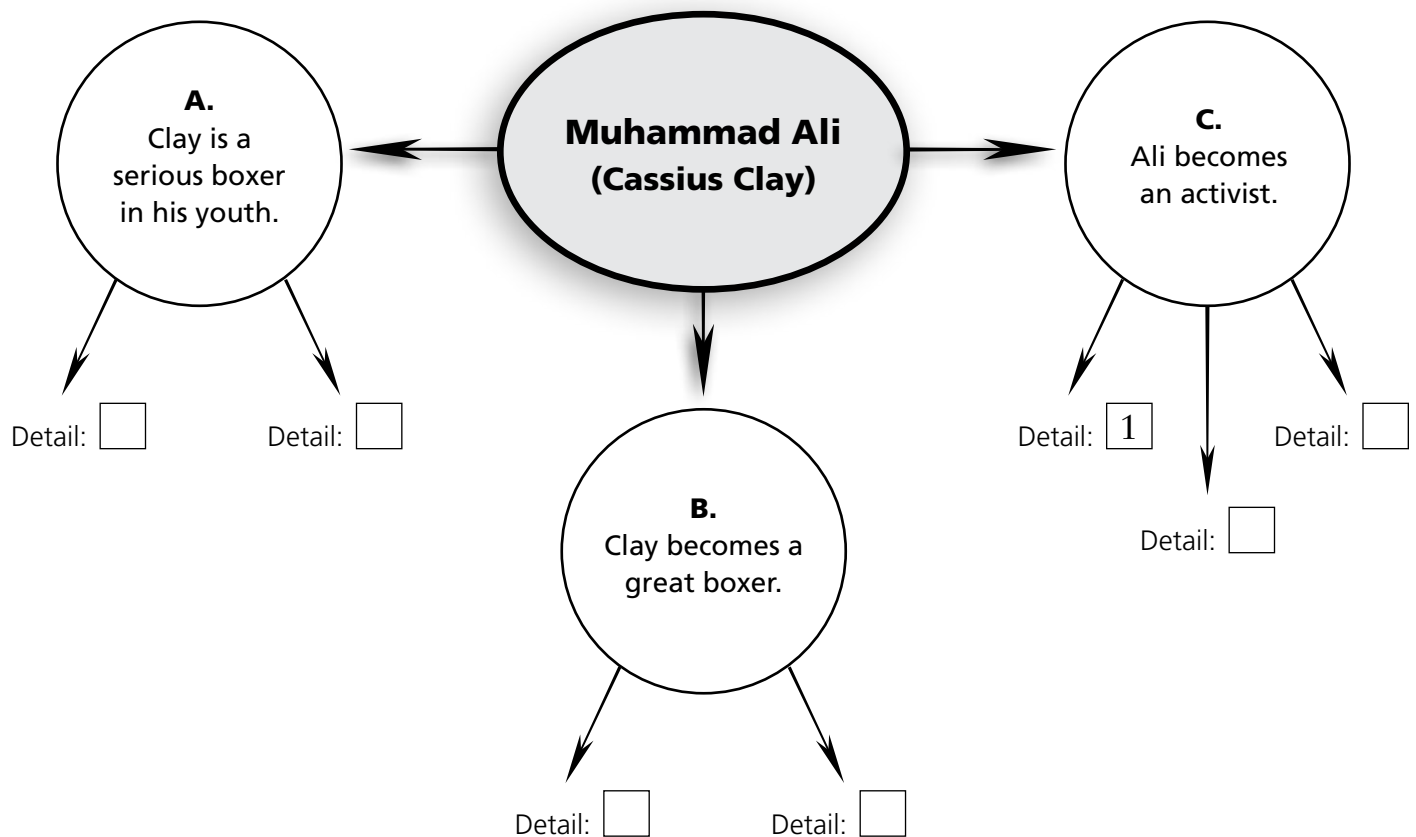
Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas before they write.

One way to organize ideas is to use a main idea and details.

The first one is an example.

- ✓ 1. Ali protests the Vietnam War.
2. Clay wins many fights in his first six years of boxing.
3. Ali speaks against racism.
4. Clay wins a gold medal at the Olympics.
5. In his teens, Clay wins six Golden Gloves titles.
6. Ali speaks for civil rights for black people.
7. Clay is world champion three times.



Choose details from the idea map to complete the paragraphs.
Copy the details into the paragraphs.

Paragraph A

Clay is a serious boxer in his youth. He wins many fights
in his first six years of boxing. In his teens, Clay _____
_____ .

Paragraph B

Clay becomes a great boxer. He _____
at the Olympics. He _____ .

Paragraph C

Ali _____ . He protests the Vietnam War.
He speaks against _____ . He speaks for _____
_____ .

Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation



Read these sentences.
Circle the capital letters and end punctuation.

1. Where does Clay grow up?
2. Clay grows up in Louisville, Kentucky.
3. He is born on January 17, 1942.

Add capital letters and end punctuation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. when does ali turn pro | 7. clay changes his name to muhammad ali |
| 5. when does clay beat sonny liston | 8. the u.s. goes to war with vietnam |
| 6. clay is a champ on february 25, 1964 | 9. when does trevor berbick beat ali |

In this activity...

use capital letters
at the beginning of a sentence,
with names of people and places, and
with dates.

use punctuation
at the end of a sentence.

• Word Attack Skills •

Activity 1 Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.
Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



1. Ali stands in a _____
of people.



2. Ali sits at a table. It has a lot of
recording _____
on it.



3. Ali _____ the
flame at the 1996 Olympics.

Complete each sentence.
Use meaning clues to predict the word.

4. Clay wants to be the best in the world. He wants to be the world _____ .
5. Clay is a great boxer. In the ring, he _____ hard and fast.
6. Clay _____ his gold medal into the river.

Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.
Each word has a common pattern.
Group the words under the correct pattern.

quick ✓ *pick* *night* *lick*
around *slight* *ground* *pound*
fight *found* *chick* *light*

Good readers look for common patterns in words.
This is another way to decode words.

ick

quick

ound

ight

Read the sentences in the box.
Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

ick ound ight

Many words have common patterns.
The patterns look and sound the same.

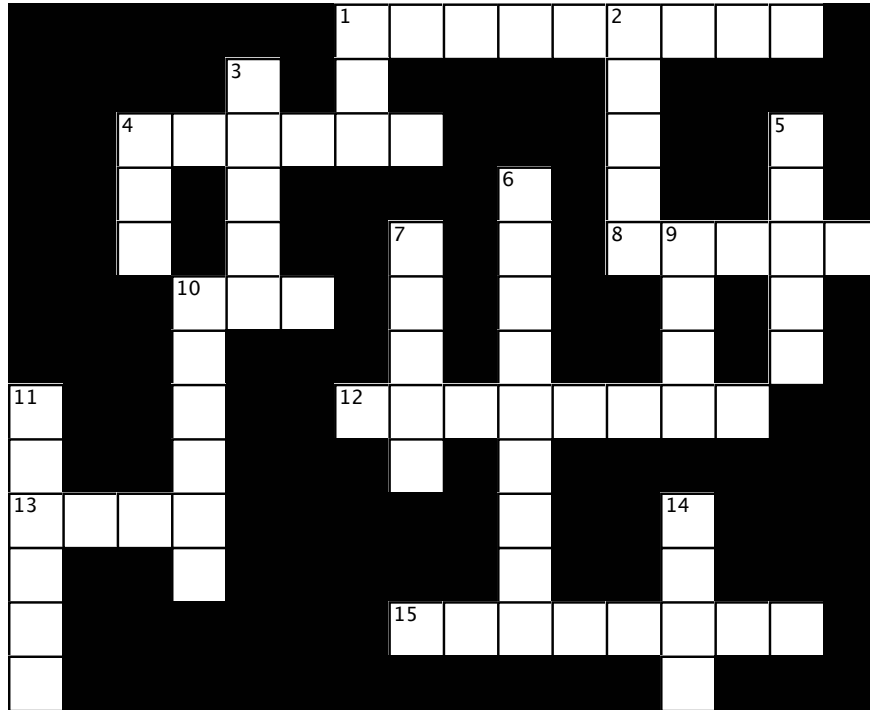
Find the Common Patterns



1. Ali is quick on his feet.
2. Ali's fans pick him to win the championship.
3. Ali has fans around the world.
4. Ali pounds the other boxers with his punches.
5. Ali wins many fights.
6. Fans watch Ali light the Olympic flame.

• Crossword •

Muhammad Ali



Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Muhammad Ali's biography.

ACROSS

1. an insect with pretty wings
4. boxers wear these on their hands
8. a person who steals
10. short word for professional
12. you are this if you are the best and win
13. what we pay if we get a speeding ticket
15. these people fight in the army

DOWN

1. this insect makes honey
2. opposite of wrong
3. a person who boxes
4. a place we go to work out or exercise
5. we do this at night when we are sleeping (rhymes with beam)
6. you get this at the Olympics if you are the best (2 words)
7. boxers do this in the ring
9. a brave person who does great things
10. \$3.99 \$.79 \$150.00
11. hot drink that has caffeine in it
14. Roses are red. Violets are blue...

• ANSWER KEY •



Muhammad Ali

- Main Idea and Details:** (1) b, c (2) b
- Invisible Messages*:** (1) Clay is a serious boxer. He has a lot of willpower. (2) Ali's fans love him. They worry about him.
- Fact and Opinion:** (1) F/O (2) O/F (3) O/F
- Table of Contents:** (1) Clay Turns Pro / 1960; when he is 18 years old (2) World Champion / February 25, 1964 (3) Ali Returns to the Ring / 1981; after he fights Trevor Berbick
- Organize Ideas:** **Main Idea A** with details 2, 5; **Main Idea B** with details 4, 7; **Main Idea C** with details 1, 3, 6 **Paragraph A:** wins six Golden Gloves titles **Paragraph B:** wins a gold medal / is world champion three times **Paragraph C:** becomes an activist / racism / civil rights for black people
- Use Capital Letters and Punctuation:** (1) Where does Clay grow up? (2) Clay grows up in Louisville, Kentucky. (3) He is born on January 17, 1942. (4) When does Clay turn pro? (5) When does Clay beat Sonny Liston? (6) Clay is a champ on February 25, 1964. (7) Clay changes his name to Muhammad Ali. (8) The U.S. goes to war with Vietnam. (9) When does Trevor Berbick beat Ali?
- Predict the Word*:** (1) crowd; group (2) equipment (3) lights; starts (4) champion (5) fights; punches (6) throws; drops; tosses
- Find Common Patterns:** (1) quick (2) pick (3) around (4) pounds (5) fights (6) light
- Divide and Conquer:** (1) teach (2) win (3) box (4) punch (5) box (6) treat (7) fight (8) speech (9) allow (10) lose (11) boxing / teaches (12) wins / fights (13) punches (14) boxer (15) fights (16) treated (17) speeches (18) allowed / years (19) loses (20) boxer

*Accept any answer that makes sense.

Crossword Solution

