

HIPPOS ARE HUGE!

by JONATHAN LONDON illustrated by MATTHEW TRUEMAN

COMPREHENSION FOCUS
Identifying Main Idea and Details
 Very Important Parts (V.I.P.) (Nonfiction)

STANDARD CORRELATION
 Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.



SEL CONNECTION
 Curiosity

PREPARE

Please refer to the page numbers provided by the publisher for this lesson. Place a sticky flag on the following pages: 11, 14, 19, and 27.

Create the anchor chart template as shown; it will be completed during the lesson.

Key Word	Main Idea

STEP 1

EXPLAIN WHAT THE STRATEGY IS AND WHY READERS USE IT

Often there are clues in a nonfiction book that can help us find the Very Important Parts, or V.I.P. Using the V.I.P., we can determine the main topic and identify key details. Today as we are reading, we will use the V.I.P. strategy to help us find the main topic and retell the key details in the text.

STEP 2

INTRODUCE THE NEW BOOK

This book is about hippos. Hippos are huge animals and happen to be the deadliest animals in Africa. Let's read to learn more about hippos.

STEP 3

READ AND DEMONSTRATE HOW TO USE THE STRATEGY

As I read this book aloud, I will stop on some pages so we can use text clues—such as the illustrations, bold words, and repeated words—to help us find the Very Important Parts. The V.I.P. will then help us retell the key details we have learned about hippos. Add key words to the chart as you read.

Read pages 6–11. Let's stop here and think of the very important part the author wants us to know about hippos. We read about their jaws, their sharp tusks, and how fast they can move. Look at the words that are in bold print. These all support the idea that hippos are dangerous animals. Dangerous is a key word that helps us to remember the V.I.P. for this part. Add dangerous to the chart. Now let's use this key word to create a main-idea sentence. Add the main-idea sentence to the chart.

Read pages 12–14. These pages are all about one thing. Ask yourself, what is the most important thing the author wants me to learn about hippos on these pages? Let's look closely at the illustrations. They are all about how the hippo moves in the water. Add moves to the chart. Now let's use the key word to create a main-idea sentence and add it to the chart.

Read pages 15–19. Turn and talk with a partner about these pages. What is the V.I.P. that the author wants us to remember? Think of a key word. Listen to the partner pairs, and then share some of their ideas. These pages are all about the bulls' actions toward each other. The bull hippo is the male hippo. The author uses bold words that show the bulls' actions. The illustrations also support the idea about what the bulls are doing. They fight with each other to prove who is the strongest bull. Look at the small print on page 18. It adds more details about how their battles can be bloody and can last for over an hour. I will add the word bull to the chart. The point the author makes about bulls is that they do many different things to prove they are the strongest bull. That is the main idea of this section (add to chart). The V.I.P. helps us determine the main idea.

Read pages 20–27. Turn and talk with a partner about these pages. What is the V.I.P. that the author wants us to remember? Think of a key word. Listen to the partner pairs, and then share some of their ideas. These pages are all about baby hippos. I will add that to the chart. Think of the point the author wants us to remember about hippo babies. That is the main idea for this part.

Key Word	Main Idea
dangerous	Hippos are dangerous animals.
moves	A hippo moves quickly.
bull	Bull hippos fight to prove they are the strongest.
baby hippos	Mother hippos care for babies.



Comparing two things helps us learn what is the same and what is different about people, places, and things. In this book, the mother hippo cares for or nurtures its young hippos. Turn and talk with your partner about the ways the mother hippo cares for its young and how it is similar to or different from humans. When you are curious, it means you want to learn more about people, places, or things.

STEP 4

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Download the activity sheet from pioneervalleybooks.com/st. Have students draw a picture of a hippo, showing one of the main ideas they learned about hippos. Display the pictures on the wall.

HIPPOS ARE HUGE!

by JONATHAN LONDON illustrated by MATTHEW TRUEMAN

STEP 1

REVIEW THE BOOK

Use the anchor chart and drawings from Day 1 and discuss with a partner what you learned about hippos.

STEP 2

PROMPT

Hand out the journals. Write the following prompt on chart paper as you read it aloud: Choose one main idea from the anchor chart. Think of details to write more about the main idea. Read it again, asking students to read it with you.

STEP 3

PLAN

Write the main-idea sentence at the top of your paper. Make a list of the details you remember about the main idea. Use the key words to create sentences that support your main idea.

STEP 4

WRITE

While students are writing, circulate the room and confer with individuals. Have students use their personal word wall as a spelling reference. Assist students with their plan by referencing the anchor chart and Day 1 drawings, orally rehearsing their next sentence, or addressing their individual writing target.

Have students share their writing with a partner.

STEP 5

EXTEND AND CONNECT THE LEARNING

Read aloud other nonfiction books, stopping to discuss the Very Important Parts. Write the key word(s) on a chart to help remember the V.I.P. Use the V.I.P. to retell the information you learned about a topic.

Choose one main idea from the anchor chart. Think of details to write more about the main idea.