English Language Arts 10-2

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

Controlling idea in a paragraph

The bus leaves before practicum ends

- Title first: The Thursday gap. Before the paragraph, predict that a time will fail to line up.
- The paragraph says downtown practicum, a weekly work placement, ends at 4:10, the last neighbourhood bus leaves at 3:40, and students who stay pay for a city ticket or wait in the office.
- Read the 4:10 sentence aloud if the two clocks blur. Then ask which clock the school controls.
- Controlling idea: the bus schedule clashes with the one day students are required to stay. The times and the ticket are details under that idea.

Idea above the times

Controlling idea

The school bus schedule leaves a gap on the day students must stay for downtown practicum.

Supporting detail

Practicum ends at 4:10, and the last neighbourhood bus leaves at 3:40.

Strategy and main idea

- A comprehension strategy in this paragraph is a preview, a question, or reading the crowded sentence aloud. Each one is chosen on purpose.
- The controlling idea is the mismatch between a required late day and a bus that has already gone.
- Supporting details are 4:10, 3:40, the city ticket, and the office wait. They hold the mismatch up under one main sentence.

Key terms

comprehension strategy

A move you use on purpose while reading, such as previewing, questioning, or reading a knotty sentence aloud.

controlling idea

The main claim a text is built to support, with details underneath it, supporting it.

Details work for the sentence above them

- The 4:10 end time supports the idea because it is when practicum finishes.
- The 3:40 bus supports the same idea because it leaves too soon.
- The city ticket supports it as the current cost of the gap. The fare stays a detail under that gap.

From title to one sentence

- Preview: the title The Thursday gap predicts a schedule problem on one day.
- Question: which clock is the school's, and which is the practicum's?
- Aloud: practicum ends at 4:10, bus at 3:40. The gap is thirty minutes plus the ride.
- Idea, then details: the schedule clashes with the required late day. Times, ticket, and office wait sit underneath.

The lunch-line paragraph

- Title: Twelve minutes. The paragraph says the 12:05 bell releases three grades at once, the line reaches the gym doors, and students with class at 12:20 leave without eating.
- Preview from the title, ask one question, and read the crowded sentence aloud if you need to.
- Write one controlling idea and two details under it.

Review

- Cover the bus and lunch paragraphs.
- Title: Lights out early. Lamps switch off at 8:40 unless a staff member is still shelving, and students with late projects lose the tables.
- State the controlling idea and one supporting detail. Name the strategy you used.