



Bold Plans, Big Dreams, City Progress

CCSSR2: Determine **central ideas or themes** of a text and analyze their development; **summarize** the key supporting details and ideas.

2009 is a very important year in Chicago. Barack Obama became President. He brought a bold plan to the Presidency. He proposed major changes. Barack Obama started his career in Chicago as a community organizer. Community organizers work with people to make progress as a group. Barack Obama has brought a new vision to government, emphasizing the importance of each person working together to bring about change. He is asking communities to work together to change the nation. Now some people are calling him the “national organizer”.

2009 is important to Chicago for another reason, too. It is the 100th anniversary of a change that led to great Chicago progress. That was the Burnham Plan, which is named for an architect, Daniel Burnham. Usually architects plan buildings. He planned cities. Daniel Burnham worked with other leaders. They planned to improve Chicago’s transportation, parks, health, water, and housing. Burnham’s plan would help solve Chicago problems.

Burnham saw big problems. When he saw crowded streets, he didn’t just think of making the road wider. He thought “out of the box”—he thought of ways to solve the problems that would change the city. For example, he said Chicago should have two levels of its main streets downtown so that trucks could travel on the lower level. He thought of solutions that changed the systems of the city.

Burnham made drawings to show his ideas to people. He needed to get their support. He talked with other leaders about the problems and plans. He made speeches. He was persuasive. He was persistent. He never gave up on his plans. A friend of his named Charles Wacker helped. He put together a book called the Wacker Manual. It told about the Burnham plan. Every 8th grade student read that book. It was their social studies textbook.

Plans don’t make progress. People do. Leaders and citizens make the changes. In 1909, city leaders adopted Burnham’s big plan. Then they had to get money to pay for the changes he wanted. It took years, and some of the plans didn’t work out, but many of Burnham’s ideas are part of Chicago today. One person did not make that progress. Leaders worked to support it. Citizens voted to fund it. It takes a lot of work to make big changes. It takes leadership. It takes collaboration. It takes determination.

Read Thoughtfully

A theme is a way of thinking about a topic. Which is the best theme of this passage?

- 2009 is an important year for Chicago progress.
- Daniel Burnham made Chicago progress.
- Progress requires planning and collaboration.
- Persistence and determination bring progress.

Support your choice. Look for examples that support it. Underline the examples that support it.