

A New Park

CCSSR1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

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

A school in Chicago was not near a park. There was no place for children to play in the community. To get to a park, you had to take a bus. The school was a very big school with two buildings. There was a lot of land outside the school. It took up a whole block. It used to be a park. But the land had been covered in concrete. Part of it was a parking lot. Part of it was an old playground. When they built the school, it was just one building. But then more people moved into the community and they needed a bigger school. So they paved the ground and built another building.

The principal met with the alderman. The alderman works in the city government. Each part of the city has an alderman. The principal asked the alderman to help. She said that they had an old playground. She showed pictures of the playground. The equipment was old. They needed much more.

The alderman had a big idea. “Let’s turn your school into a park,” she said. “You have lots of land outside the school. Right now it is concrete. We can put in grass and trees. We can rebuild the playground.”

To make that change, the alderman had to get money. It would be expensive to make the park. The alderman talked with the Chicago Park District. That is the organization that runs all the parks. They wanted to add a park near the school. They wanted to make sure every community had a park they could walk to. They liked the idea of putting it right outside the school.

It took two years to make this big change. First, designers made plans. Then the Park District made a budget. They made a schedule. First they would have to get rid of the concrete. Then they would need good soil, grass, and trees.

They needed money to pay for the work and equipment. The alderman helped them get money. He persuaded the City Council to pay for the new park. The City Council is in charge of the city’s laws. It oversees the budget, too. The alderman helped them understand that this park would be well used every day.

It took two years, but the park was built. Everyone loved the park. Now on Saturdays and Sundays children come to play in the park.

There was a big celebration when they opened it. Parents came. So did the alderman. So did the principals of other schools in the community. The other principals said they wanted to have parks, too.

EXPLAIN WHAT YOU LEARNED

1. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.
2. Write a short summary that tells what the passage explains. Include only the most important information.

Start your summary this way:

The main idea of the passage is _____.
Here is information that helps you understand that idea.

Then finish the summary. Include the information that helps explain the main idea.