The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #1

**Mr. Plain**

John Plain woke up every morning at six. He’d wake up, get his wife up, and check on the dog. Everyday, they’d eat plain cereal with skim milk. Monday through Friday, Mr. Plain wore clean white shirts without a speck. He’d wear the same type of pants too. Mr. Plain brushed his teeth for exactly two minutes. On the way to work, he’d pick up some coffee. Mr. Plain had a good life.

One day, John Plain started to think. He thought of what he could do. He thought about what he should not do. He thought about getting a tattoo. His wife said, “It’s not for you.” Should he quit his job? No, he couldn’t be a slob. Long hair in the back? Not unless he wanted to live alone in a shack? What could he do?

Then an idea came to his mind. This was an idea that nobody would mind! He decided not to shave. That was like his friend Dave. But John wanted more. Simple hair would be a bore! He didn’t shave the next night. He didn’t shave for many a night! The hair grew and it grew. It covered his lip, and it would not quit.

Weeks went by. Mr. Plain did not trim the hair above his lip. It curled down his chest. Some people thought he was lazy. Some thought he was a little crazy! His wife started to frown. “Good Grief,” his wife said. “Please cut that mustache. It will be a relief.” She said that very, very loud.

A year went by. Mr. Plain had more friends at work. He was pretty funny. It wasn’t all about the mustache. He was just pretty funny! The mustache was four feet long. Mr. Plain said it was long enough! He decided to get it cut. His life was less boring. He had learned a lot. He could be interesting on his own. He did not need a device.

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