The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #12

**Got a Smoke?**

You walk into the room and are met with a cloud of smoke. Your eyes begin to water and you have a hard time breathing. You wonder why anyone smokes. Smoking causes health problems, makes people look bad, and wastes money. Still, people do it.

Smoking causes heart disease and cancer, including lung cancer. This can make life harder. The effects of smoking also are linked to many deaths. Do you want any of that?

I wonder why people think that smoking is cool. Smokers have a strong smell of tobacco. Most people don’t like that. Also, smoking causes teeth to look yellow. People who smoke for a long time also have a hoarse voice and make lots of hacking noises.

In addition, smokers pay three dollars per pack of cigarettes. Most smokers use a pack or two each day. If a smoker uses a pack of cigarettes a day, that person would spend over one thousand dollars per year on a bad habit. Imagine how much money a smoker spends in ten, twenty, even fifty years!

Did you know that smoking can be dangerous for others also? Pregnant women who smoke create a greater chance of problems for their babies. Nonsmokers who breathe in cigarette smoke are more likely to die of lung cancer also. Now that’s something else to think about.

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