

Unit 2

Key Ideas and Details in Literature

You are sitting in a darkened theater, waiting for a play to begin. Finally, the lights come on, the curtain rises, and the actors begin speaking their lines. As you watch, the story unfolds. From the **details** in the action and dialogue, you learn **key ideas** about the plot. When you read a story, play, or poem, you are that text's audience. You understand key ideas by paying close attention to the author's descriptions and the characters' dialogue. Sometimes, you have to "read between the lines" and use the details in the text to figure out information that the author doesn't tell you directly.



In this unit, you will learn how to understand a literary work by reading closely and using evidence, or details, to make inferences. You will learn to describe how a story's or play's plot unfolds and how characters change over time. Finally, you will learn how to use all that information to summarize the text. Let the curtain rise and the show begin!

✓ Self Check

Before starting this unit, check off the skills you know below. As you complete each lesson, see how many more you can check off!

I know how to:

	Before this unit	After this unit
cite evidence to support inferences about a text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
describe how a story's or drama's plot unfolds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
explain how characters respond to changes in the plot.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
find the theme or central idea of a text.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
summarize the text without including personal opinions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>