

DIRECTIONS: Read *Moving into the Middle* and answer the questions that follow.

MOVING INTO THE MIDDLE

by Thomas Richard

Students going to middle school for the first time are sometimes terrified of the transition. That fear comes from the fact that they don't know what to expect. Of course, there are differences between elementary school and middle school; however, there are similarities as well.

Middle and elementary schools have many similarities. For example, students in both schools have the same school calendar. In addition, the school day is the same length. Furthermore, students in middle and elementary schools study the four core subjects: math, science, language arts, and social studies. Students can also expect to have homework, quizzes, tests, and projects to complete. Middle and elementary schools have a lot in common.

There are also some differences between middle and elementary schools. First, students in middle school travel to different classes during the school day. A bell rings to alert student when it's time to move to a different class. Second, students usually have a hallway locker to store their books and supplies. A third difference is that students in middle school usually have extra classes, such as a foreign language class. These differences make middle school different from elementary school.

Although middle school is different from elementary school, not everything is different. Some aspects of middle school will seem familiar to new students. Knowing what to expect is helpful, and should make students feel less nervous about their new school.



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1. What is the **topic** of the essay?

2. What is the **main idea**?

3. What kind of **hook**, or **lead**, is used?

4. Which sentence in the first paragraph tells the reader exactly what the essay is going to be about? This is the **thesis statement**.

5. How many **body paragraphs** are in this essay? _____

6. Why has the writer included this number of body paragraphs?

7. How are the body paragraphs **organized**? This is called **structure**.

8. Which **key words** tell you that the text is organized in this way?

9. What **type of information** does the writer use to **develop** each body paragraph?

10. What is the purpose of the **concluding paragraph**?

Compare & Contrast Prompts

Name _____

How are the activities middle school students participate in during the summer different from the activities they participate in during the winter?

Compare & Contrast

Which makes a better pet, a cat or a dog? Explain.

Compare & Contrast

How are tornadoes and hurricanes similar and different?

Compare & Contrast