

## Grade 4 Playlist: Explicit Details and Examples in a Text

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1:*

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

### Welcome

Authors of nonfiction texts often aim to teach readers something new. To do this, they present details and examples that make the topic clearer. These details and examples are types of explicit information because they tell readers things directly. Readers rely on this explicit information in order to grasp the meaning of a text. They also rely on it when explaining the text's meaning to other people.

### Objective

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- refer to details and examples in a text when they explain what the text says explicitly.

### Review

#### Key Term

- **Explicit information** in a text is what the author directly tells readers. Explicit information includes details and examples in the text itself.

### Exploring the Standard

Readers of nonfiction need to be able to refer to explicit information in the text when they explain what it means. This skill is important for a couple of reasons. First, explicit information in a text can be used as evidence to support answers to questions. By referring to details in a text, readers show that their answer is based on the text rather than their own opinions. Second, finding explicit information in the text helps readers check their own understanding.

### Watch!

In this video, a student uses explicit details from a school newspaper to answer a friend's questions.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAxuZb-V\\_T4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAxuZb-V_T4)



When using explicit details and examples to answer questions, it helps to be able to find information quickly. Readers can use some of these strategies to locate information in a text:

- When first reading a text, underline key details. This will make it easier to find the information later.
- To answer a question, first find the key words in the question. Then skim the text for those key words to find details that might help to answer the question.
- Use text features like headings, boldface words, and images to figure out how information is organized.
- Read the first sentence of each paragraph to see what that paragraph is mainly about.

### Watch!

This video further explains how to skim a text to find details and examples.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv-MPBbOwPc>

### Example

Read this passage from a book called *Country Walks of a Naturalist with his Children* by William Houghton. In this passage, a scientist is walking with his children and describing the types of birds that he sees.

<sup>1</sup>We have in this country four different species of the swallow family which visit us every year; they come to us from Africa: these are the sand-martin, two specimens of which we have just seen, the swallow, the house-martin, and the swift. A very little attention will enable you to distinguish these different kinds. The sand-martin is the smallest of the family; as the birds fly by us you notice that the back part is brown, or mouse colour; the under part white. The back of the house-martin is of a glossy black or bluish-black colour; it is white underneath; while the swallow, which is larger than the other two, has a glossy back, like the house-martin; but underneath it is more or less tinged with buff; and see, as I speak here is one flying past us. To-day is the 12th of April, about the time the swallow generally comes to this country. Now you see clearly enough its colour, and you will notice, too, a very marked difference in the form of its tail; see how much forked it is, much more so than the tail of the martin. This forked appearance is produced by the two outer tail feathers, which are much longer than the rest. Now I hope you will take notice of these differences, and call things by their right names, instead of jumbling them all up together under the name of swallow. I have not spoken of the swift, which does not visit this country till May; it is the largest of the swallow family, and has the whole of its body, both above and beneath, of a blackish-brown colour, except a small patch of dirty white under the chin.

