

Find the Main Idea

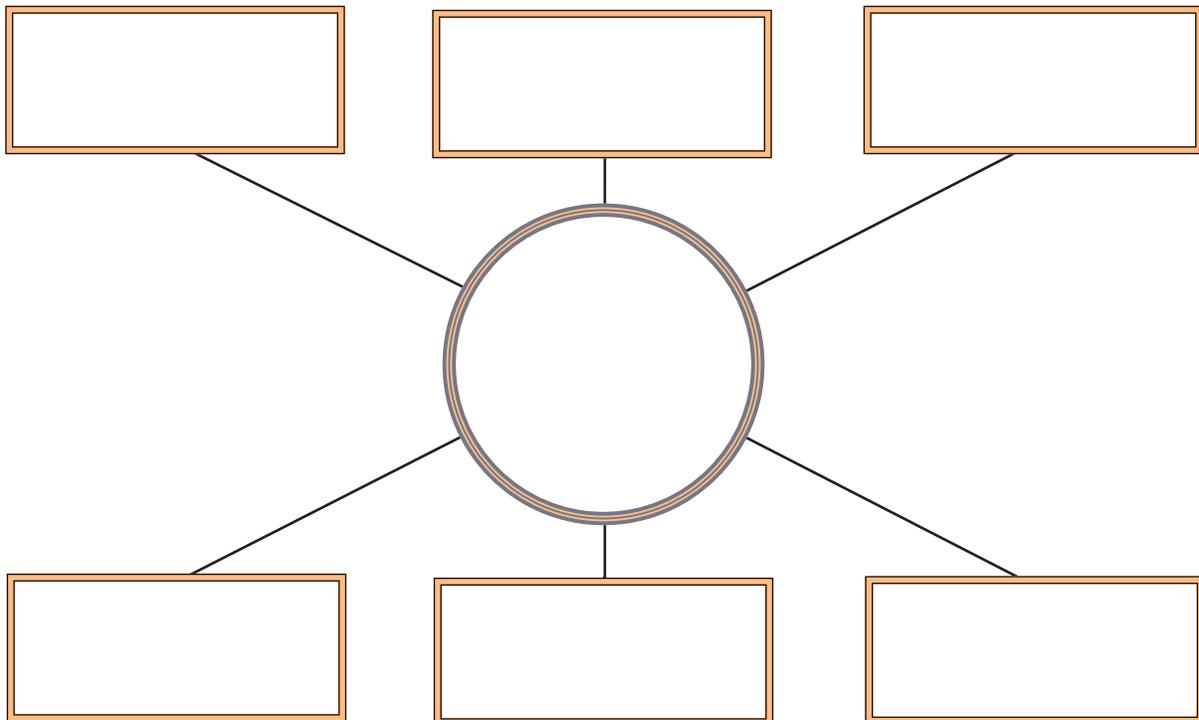
David Copperfield by Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens wrote David Copperfield in 1850. It follows the lead character, David Copperfield, from birth into adulthood. In this paragraph, David is sent to boarding school.

Chapter 5. I Am Sent Away From Home

I gazed upon the schoolroom into which he took me, as the most forlorn and desolate place I had ever seen. I see it now. A long room with three long rows of desks, and six of forms, and bristling all round with pegs for hats and slates. Scraps of old copy-books and exercises litter the dirty floor. Some silkworms' houses, made of the same materials, are scattered over the desks. Two miserable little white mice, left behind by their owner, are running up and down in a fusty castle made of pasteboard and wire, looking in all the corners with their red eyes for anything to eat. A bird, in a cage very little bigger than himself, makes a mournful rattle now and then in hopping on his perch, two inches high, or dropping from it; but neither sings nor chirps. There is a strange unwholesome smell upon the room, like mildewed corduroys, sweet apples wanting air, and rotten books. There could not well be more ink splashed about it, if it had been roofless from its first construction, and the skies had rained, snowed, hailed, and blown ink through the varying seasons of the year.

Write the main idea of the paragraph in the circle below. Write the supporting ideas in the boxes.



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Actual wording and supporting ideas will vary. Example of correct answers:

