What's it all about?

Determining the Importance of “Reader of Rocks”

1. Read each strip and determine which sentences represent the most important ideas from the article, “Reader of Rocks”.

2. Then cut the strips apart and classify them into two categories, Main Ideas and Interesting Details.

3. Compare your thinking with your partner’s thinking. Discuss your thinking until you can agree on what goes under each category.

4. Compare your and your partner’s thinking with another pair’s thinking.
Julie works at the United States Polar Rock Repository at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Eventually, over millions of years, the trees decayed and became coal.

“Rocks have a story to tell,” Julie says, “they have a language.

The presence of coal on this frozen continent tells us something.

Generation after generation of trees grew, died, and fell, squashing one another under their enormous weight.

“Geologists ask, ‘What is this rock trying to say to me?,’” Julie says with a smile.

Julie is the assistant curator of the repository.

There are no trees on Antarctica today.

Now, Julie is becoming a reader of the rocks herself.

For example, take a black, crumbly rock from the cold continent of Antarctica.

But she really loves sharing the mystery of geology with others.

The repository is like a library of rocks from the Arctic and Antarctica. Scientists from all over the world have sent rocks to the repository so they can be carefully studied and stored.

You just need to learn to read that language, to understand the story they’re telling.