

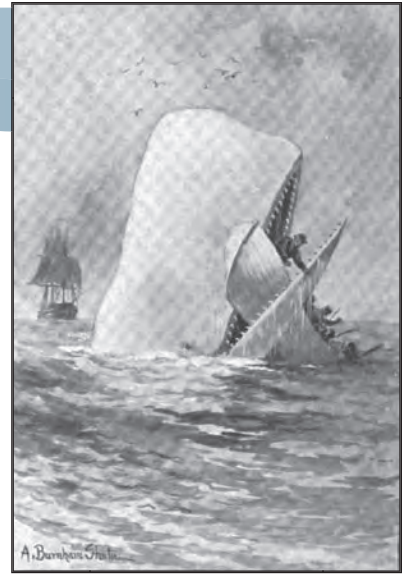
## Find the Main Idea

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

*Herman Melville's classic novel, Moby Dick; or The Whale, was published in 1851. The novel follows Captain Ahab's search to destroy the powerful and mysterious white whale called Moby Dick.*

### Chapter 14 - Nantucket

Nantucket! Take out your map and look at it. See what a real corner of the world it occupies; how it stands there, away off shore, more lonely than the Eddystone lighthouse. Look at it—a mere hillock, and elbow of sand; all beach, without a background. There is more sand there than you would use in twenty years as a substitute for blotting paper. Some gamesome wights will tell you that they have to plant weeds there, they don't grow naturally; that they import Canada thistles; that they have to send beyond seas for a spile to stop a leak in an oil cask; that pieces of wood in Nantucket are carried about like bits of the true cross in Rome; that people there plant toadstools before their houses, to get under the shade in summer time; that one blade of grass makes an oasis, three blades in a day's walk a prairie; that they wear quicksand shoes, something like Laplander snow-shoes; that they are so shut up, belted about, every way inclosed, surrounded, and made an utter island of by the ocean, that to their very chairs and tables small clams will sometimes be found adhering as to the backs of sea turtles. But these extravaganzas only show that Nantucket is no Illinois.



*An illustration from an 1892 edition of Moby Dick*

## Find the Main Idea

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

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Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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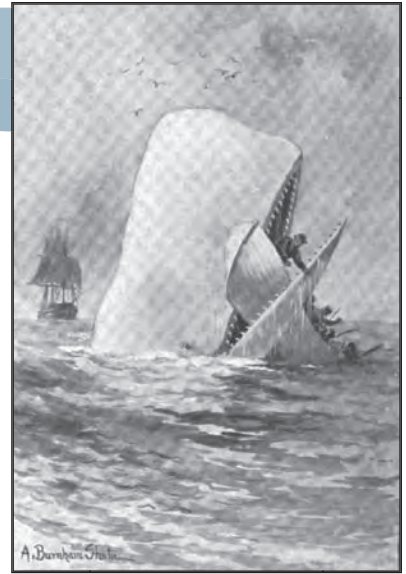
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## Find the Main Idea

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

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

**Nantucket is a barren place.**

Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. **Even weeds will not grow on Nantucket, but must be imported from Canada.**

2. **There are no trees on Nantucket, so every piece of wood is treasured like it**

**was a relic of the cross of Christ.**