

## SAT Central Ideas

### Simplifying the question

#### Example 2

Scrapbooks of saved fabric pieces were commonly kept by women in the nineteenth-century United States, but few are as meticulously detailed as Hannah Ditzler Alspaugh's work. Alongside each piece of fabric, Alspaugh recorded intimate memories, such as dressmaking with her sister. Additionally, she listed the prices and how she used the fabric. Historians note that by representing fifty years of changing textures, patterns, and dress styles, the scrapbook is a record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking as well as Alspaugh's life.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Choose 1 answer:

- a) Fabric scrapbooks were a popular hobby for many women in the nineteenth-century United States.
- b) Alspaugh's scrapbook provides a detailed account of her life and historical record of fashion trends in the nineteenth-century United States.
- c) Historians rely on fabric scrapbooks to understand how fashions changed throughout the nineteenth century United States.
- d) Alspaugh inspired other women to save pieces of fabric in scrapbooks and provide historical records of nineteenth-century fashions in the United States.

#### Easier

In the nineteenth-century United States, many women kept scrapbooks with pieces of fabric, but Hannah Ditzler Alspaugh's scrapbook is especially detailed. Next to each piece, she wrote personal memories, such as making clothes with her sister. She also included the prices and how she used the fabric. Historians say the scrapbook shows both her life and how fabrics and clothing styles changed over fifty years.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- a) Many women in the nineteenth-century United States kept scrapbooks with fabric pieces.
- b) Alspaugh's scrapbook gives a detailed record of her life and changes in clothing over time.
- c) Historians use fabric scrapbooks to study clothing in the nineteenth-century United States.
- d) Alspaugh influenced other women to create scrapbooks of fabric pieces.

#### Easiest

In the 1800s in the United States, many women kept books with small pieces of fabric. Hannah Ditzler Alspaugh made one of these books with great care. Next to each piece, she wrote personal memories, like making clothes with her sister. She also wrote the price and how she used the fabric. Historians say her book shows both her life and how clothes and fabrics have changed over fifty years.

Which choice best shows the main idea of the text?

- a) Many women in the 1800s in the United States kept fabric books.
- b) Alspaugh's book shows her life and changes in clothing over time.
- c) Historians use fabric books to learn about clothing in the past.
- d) Alspaugh helped other women start making fabric books.