

Finding the Theme



Step 1

Find the "big ideas" or general topics in the work.

- ◆ The author's themes always relate to the topic.
- ◆ Try to learn about the "big ideas" as you preview the reading.
 - Try finding a clue in the title, the first paragraph or in illustrations.
 - Consider common themes for middle school.
- ◆ As you read, think about the underlying idea or **message** of the work.



Step 2

As you read, watch for details that relate to the general big ideas you've identified. They are the clues to understanding the themes.

- ◆ Clues might be found in:
 - Repeated words or ideas
 - Symbols / Images
 - Important events or dialogue
 - Changes in characters

Step 3



Create a statement of the author's point or message about the topic. Use the following graphic organizer and this sentence frame to help you:

Big idea word, verb, description

- ◆ Here are some examples:
 - Peer pressure can cause destruction.
 - Tolerance can lead to friendship.
 - Overcoming challenges is common to all people.