



Main Idea: Notes

What is the main idea?

- The main idea is the **main point** that the author tries to get across to the reader throughout the course of the book.
- It is a **concept** that is used throughout the whole book.

It is **NOT** the theme!!!

How to find the main idea?

- The easiest way to find the main idea is to eliminate what you know is not the main idea.
- When looking for the main idea, try to identify the **main topic/concept** of the story.
- Make sure to have read the full story/book because what seems to be the main idea might change at any point.
- To come up with the main idea, simply **summarize the book in one simple sentence**.
 - For example: In the book, Are You My Mother? By P. D. Eastman, the main idea is that **the bird is looking for his mother**.

What is the difference between theme and main idea?

- Main idea is the **topic/main events** that are found usually **after reading the whole story**.
- There is only **1 main idea**.
- The theme is a **lesson, moral, message, or idea** that is prominent in the book in **many places**.
- There can be **multiple themes**.