

# Big Ideas

Big ideas can also be called themes. A theme differs from a summary and a main idea because it relates to a greater “worldly” message. For example, Old Yeller is a story about the importance of relationships and loyalty. This theme is very different from a summary or a main idea you might write about the story. Often, themes do not contain a single word or character from the actual text of the book.

Themes are never stated – they are **inferred**. Your job is to read a section or chapter of your book and determine the theme. Be sure you have evidence from the text to support your theme.

Record your thinking in your journal.



# Connect It!

## Text to Self

There are all types of connections to make when you are reading. Your task is to connect the text to yourself.

- Choose a book, magazine, newspaper, etc. to read.
- Use the sticky notes in the folder to make connections as you read. Write the connection on the sticky note and “stick” it in the book!
- After you finish reading, choose three of the connections you made and write about each one. You must write more than one sentence for each connection.

# Aha!!!!

Many times we read a story and come to a point where we say, “AHA!!!” That is the moment we come to a new understanding based on the actions of the character or a new element of the story. Your job is to read a section or chapter of your current reading selection. Then, you will create a chart in your journal to show an AHA! Use the chart below as a guide.

Information from text	New thought or AHA!

# Cause and Effect

Read a section or chapter of the book you have selected for independent reading. Part of your job in determining text importance is to decide WHAT HAPPENED and WHY it HAPPENED. Use the chart in the folder to select 3-5 of the most important events of the section or chapter you read and determine the CAUSE of each event.

# Ask It!

Select one of the book covers from the basket. Generate a list of questions you have about the story that goes with it. Some of your questions might be:

- I wonder....
- How come...
- Why...

Record your questions in your journal.

Have fun!

# Close Your Eyes....

Read a chapter or a section in your independent reading book.

In a minute, you will close your eyes and think about the section or chapter you just completed. Let it play out like a movie in your mind. Pay attention to the details. After the scene is complete, open your eyes and write about what you saw!

Record your thoughts in your journal.