

Theme vs. Main Idea

Directions: Read the passage carefully.

1. Identify the **main idea**: What is the text mostly about? (1-2 sentences)
2. Identify the **theme**: What larger lesson or message does the text suggest? (1 sentence)
3. Be prepared to explain how the main idea and theme are different.

The Lost Backpack

Maria rushed onto the bus, only to realize too late that she had left her backpack at the park. Inside the bag were her homework, her favorite book, and her lunch for the next day. At first, she panicked and wanted to give up on finding



it. But then she remembered her teacher's advice to "stay calm and solve problems step by step." She retraced her walk through the park, checking each bench and playground corner. Finally, near the swings, she spotted the backpack with everything still inside. Relieved, she promised herself to be more careful and organized in the future.

Questions

1. What is the **main idea** of the passage?

2. What is the **theme** or message of the passage?

3. In your own words, explain the difference between the main idea and the theme in this story.

