

Name _____

Theme vs. Main Idea Answer Key

1. Main Idea:

Maria lost her backpack but found it again by retracing her steps and staying calm.

2. Theme:

It is important to stay calm and persistent when solving problems.

3. Explanation (Teacher Notes):

- The **main idea** is about what literally happens in the story: Maria loses and finds her backpack.
- The **theme** is the larger lesson the story communicates: problem-solving requires calmness, persistence, and organization.
- Students should see that while the **main idea** = **story content**, the **theme** = **life lesson** that applies more broadly.