

# What's the Big Idea?

When you read a story, part of the reason why it means something to you is because of its theme—the big idea or overall message you take away from it. In this activity, you will choose a theme from "Maxwell's Fabulous Tee Shirts" and explain why it's meaningful to you.

**Directions:** Follow the directions in the boxes below.

**Step 1: What are some of the big ideas in the story?**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2: Pick one of the big ideas from your list above and write it below.**

The most important theme, or big idea, of "Maxwell's Fabulous Tee Shirts" is \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3: Describe some parts in the story that illustrate this big idea.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Thinking

On a separate piece of paper, write a well-organized paragraph explaining how the main theme you picked above relates to your own life. Remember to use supporting details to back up your statements.