

## OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITING/HANDOUT 6

### WHAT IS THE BIG IDEA OF THE STORY?

THE BIG IDEA IS A STATEMENT OR COMMENTARY BY THE AUTHOR. It is the enduring understanding or message the author wants to leave you. It is based on the theme of the book, but it goes further and makes a statement, judgment or commentary about it. For example, The Big Idea of “Cinderella” is that people who behave wickedly (the wicked stepmother and stepsisters) will always get their just desserts in the end because good (Cinderella) always wins over evil.

#### **Activity**

Your teacher will now read you a story. Jot down notes because you will be writing a summary of the story. The summary will introduce the story’s big idea. You may do this in groups.

*The format of a summary is:*

- The introduction of ‘big idea’ as a statement
- Description of events in the story that support choice of ‘big idea’
- Conclusion that restates the ‘big idea’ in a different way

*So that the reader:*

- Knows immediately what is the enduring understanding (big idea)
- Can connect the events of the story to the ‘big idea’
- Have the ‘big idea’ reinforced mind at the end of the summary

#### **Optional Activity (if there is time...)**

You will write a creative reflection of the story:

- From the point of view of one of the characters (identify who you are and what is your part/role in the story)
- Focusing on the ‘big idea’ that your group chose (You may need to review your ‘big idea’ if you had difficulty with it in your Book Summary.)