

#9/Theme

## What's Up?

A news reporter is interviewing you about issues you've observed between friends and families at school and in your neighborhood.

What are some problems you might discuss? Does your book address any of these? Explain the connections between your book and any problems you identify.



#10/Theme

## Make It a Bestseller

You're an editor who has to come up with a new title for your book. Think about the novel's characters, problems, settings, events, and themes. Create an effective new title that will entice people to read the book. Be ready to explain why you think it reflects the book's main idea so well.



#11/Theme

## Talk-Show Question

You are the author. In front of millions of TV viewers, a famous talk-show host asks you: "So do you think people are basically good-hearted or basically selfish?" Based on the characters in this novel, what would you answer? Discuss.



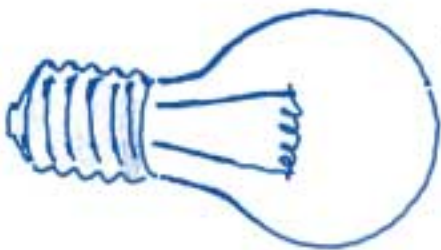
#12/Theme

## Pick a Theme

Discuss what the author seems to be saying about one of these topics or themes: behavior, friendship, family members, poverty, prejudice, survival, hope, peer pressure, illness, handicaps, talent. Then take turns sharing your own views of these things.



What's the Big Idea?



What's the Big Idea?



What's the Big Idea?



What's the Big Idea?



#13/Setting

## Past, Present, Future

In this book are the characters living in the past, the future, or do they remain in the present time? What did you learn about the time period? Do you think the world is better or worse off now?

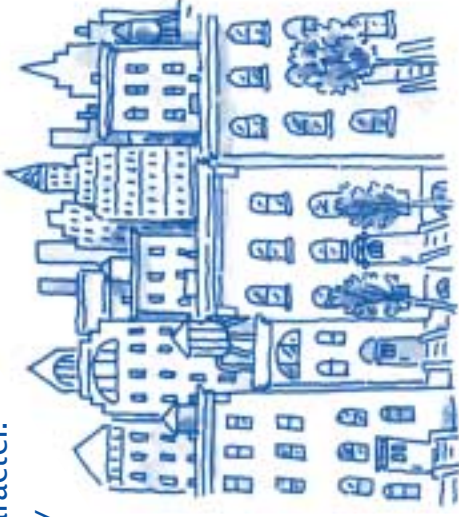


#14/Setting

## Important Scenes

Pick your favorite character.

Which settings deeply affect the character's decisions and feelings? Which create problems? Identify two or three settings and clearly explain the impact each has on the character.



#15/Setting

## Clues About Time

Reflect on how much time passes in your book. Skimming the text, find and discuss passages that show how the author makes time move.



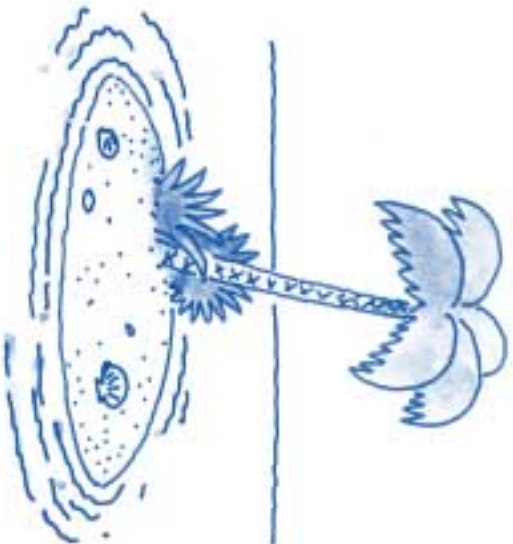
#16/Setting

## You Are There!

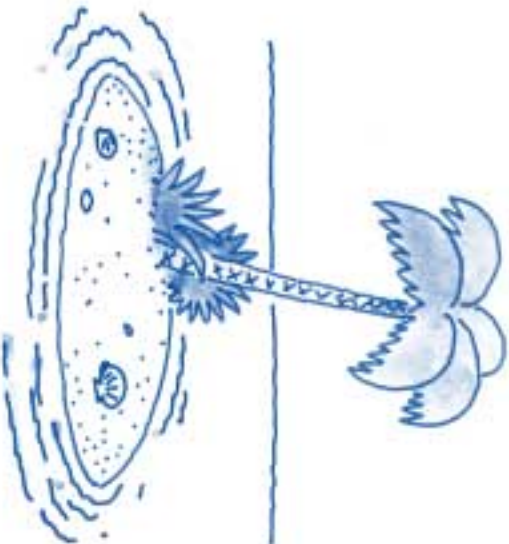
Sometimes an author describes a place with so much detail that you can see, hear, smell, and feel what that place is like. Find a scene that involves several of your senses. Read it to your partner or group, and discuss the words and phrases that stirred each sense.



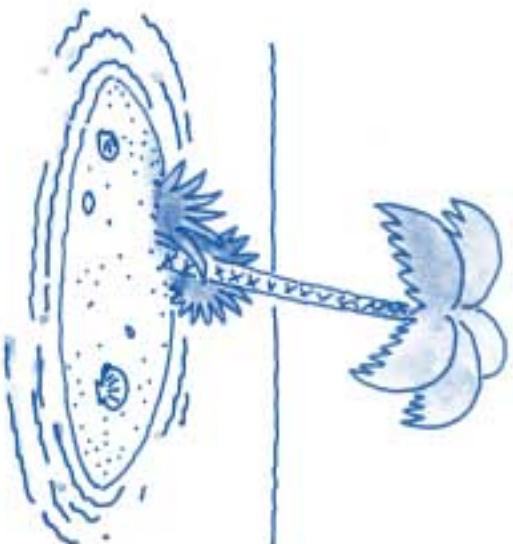
Where and When?



Where and When?



Where and When?



Where and When?

