

Main Idea vs Broad Statements & Narrow Statements

The Main Idea:

- *Summary of the story
- *NOT too broad & NOT too narrow
- *The overall idea of the story
- *Just enough information to get what the story is about
- *What the author wants to the reader to know about the subject
- *It helps you make sense of the story
- *It *could* be used as a topic sentence or thesis statement
- *The focus of the story

Broad Statements:

- Lack details
- Too general
- Doesn't really describe very much
- Covers many possible topics
- Too big to be main idea
- Doesn't help visualize much in the story
- Can go in lots of different directions
- Open idea
- Wide, variety of topics can fit within this statement

Narrow Statements:

- Details about the main idea
- Gives descriptive information from the story
- Describes something *in* the story
- Helps us visualize part of the story
- Not enough information to get the whole story
- It *could* be a fact from the story
- Makes you want to know more
- One single part of the overall subject
- A specific idea or concept in the story
- Describes something that happened or what someone did

Let's Give It a Try:

6 Way Paragraph #_____

1a.

1b.

1.c

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Remember: When trying to find the main idea, think of Goldilocks and the three bears.

