



Big Ideas

One way to identify the issues that matter most to you is to make tough decisions.

STEP ONE: Choices

(circle one option)

Situation	My priority would be to:	Or:
If a friend had done something wrong, and a teacher asked me about the situation...	Tell the complete truth	Keep my friend's secret
If two friends were in a disagreement, and I believed one point of view was right...	Support what I believed to be true	Stay out of the disagreement
If a teacher or parent created a rule I felt was shortsighted or unfair...	Keep the peace and follow the rule anyway	Express my point of view and do my best to change the rule
If a friend asked for my opinion and I knew the truth would hurt his/her feelings...	Be honest even if the truth was difficult	Keep from hurting her/his feelings
If I had the opportunity to skip out on a class or activity I truly didn't want to attend...	Keep my commitment and attend the event	Give myself the space to do what I prefer to do
If a judge offered to give me a prize on a creative project if I changed one element that I didn't want to change...	Stick to my original vision	Win the contest
If I saw a way to win a game, but knew the other player/team would be devastated...	Win	Keep the peace

STEP TWO: List Themes

To make the above choices, you had to think about friendship, competition, truth, and loyalty, among other themes. On the lines below, list the big ideas that bring out the strongest feelings for you. These big ideas are seeds that can grow into stories and poems.

