

Name: _____ Date: _____

Central Ideas and Details

A central idea of a story is one of the main points the author is making.

(Sometimes a central idea is called a "main idea.")

A central idea can always be supported with details from the text.

Directions: Follow the prompts below to explore the central ideas and supporting details in "Shattered Lives."

1. Reread the section "Dire Conditions." Which sentence below best expresses the central idea of this section?

- Ⓐ Some refugee children don't have a change of clothes.
- Ⓑ Lebanon already had a high poverty rate before the refugees from Syria arrived.
- Ⓒ A major challenge for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is that there are no formal refugee settlements there.
- Ⓓ Dania and her family live in a garage with no heat.

2. In the box is a central idea of the section "A Big Challenge." Read it, and also read the details listed below it. Which detail does NOT support the central idea? Explain your choice on the lines provided.

Central idea: Because it is difficult for many refugee children to receive an education, aid workers have developed creative solutions.

- Ⓐ "Before the war, 90 percent of Syrian children were enrolled in school."
- Ⓑ "Schools are often too expensive, crowded, or difficult to reach."
- Ⓒ "Many refugee kids have to work during school hours to help support their families."
- Ⓓ "Many Lebanese public schools now operate in shifts, with a second school day starting when the normal school day ends."

I chose _____ because _____

3. Read the details from the section "Back to School" that are listed below. In the box, write the central idea that the details support.

Central idea of "Back to School":

Detail 1: Dania gets bananas, croissants, and juice at school.

Detail 2: Aid workers gave Dania's family a weather kit to help keep their garage warm.

Detail 3: Dania can get counseling to help her cope with traumatic experiences.

4. Consider the central idea of the whole article "Shattered Lives." Write a supporting detail from each of sections listed below.

Central idea: Refugees who flee to another country face many challenges.

Supporting detail from "A Brutal War":

Supporting detail from "Dire Conditions":

Supporting detail from "A Big Challenge":

Supporting detail from "Back to School":

Supporting detail from "Looking Ahead":
