

Name _____ **Determining Theme**



The Littlest Sister

Once there was a girl named Nadia who had two sisters who were much older than she. Nadia loved both of her sisters very much, and wanted nothing more than to please them. Her sister Marcia was a farmer and lived in the country. Marcia grew beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables. She sold her flowers and vegetables at the farmer's market and earned a comfortable living. Her sister Ava was an artist and lived in the city. Ava painted huge, striking pictures on the sides of buildings, and got paid huge amounts of money to do it. Nadia tried to visit her older sisters often. She went to see Marcia and admired the flowers and vegetables. "Everything is going well," Marcia told Nadia. "Only I wish that we would get some rain, so that my crops would grow bigger and faster." "Then I hope it rains," Nadia said, and she hoped with all of her might that it would. Later she went to see Ava in the city. Ava showed her her latest artwork, and Nadia admired it. "Everything is going well," Ava told Nadia. "Only the sky is full of clouds and it looks like it might rain. I hope that it doesn't, because if it starts to rain, I won't be able to paint." This upset Nadia. "How am I supposed to wish for the best for both you and Marcia, when you want opposite things?" she cried.

Big World, Small World

The theme of a story is bigger than just what happens in the story. It communicates a message about life or human nature. One theme can be expressed in different ways through different stories, because the theme is about how the "big world" of life works, not just about how the "small world" of the story works.

1. In a single sentence, write what you think is the theme of The Littlest Sister.

2. Explain what the story means to you, and what it says about how you should conduct your life.

BONUS: There is a famous quote, attributed to Abraham Lincoln, which is closely related to the theme of this story. Do you know what it is?