

Key Ideas in “The Lottery”	
Peace vs. Violence	Heritage
Human nature	Tradition
Gender roles	Family structure
Community	Innocence
Conformity	Groupthink behavior
Resistance to change	Loyalty
Societal norms	Power
Danger/harm	Chance/ odds

The term “**central idea**,” is what the ELA Regents uses to mean _____

The first step to identifying a central idea of a text is to ask the question, “What _____ is the text mainly about? *The text is about...* [Give one word or phrase, such as a key idea.]

Consider topics dealing with _____ ideas, such as

Next, keeping in mind the topic, construct a *well-reasoned* central idea, which is a statement that provides a complete thought or message—a defensible claim.

Develop your central idea statement by using a word, such as _____.

Example of the process, using the children’s story *Little Red Riding Hood*:

1. One Word – *violation, vulnerability, naivety*
2. **Three-Word Sentence** – *Stupidity breeds mistakes*
3. *when... one listens to strangers.*

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER: *When one listens to strangers, stupidity breeds mistakes.*

Creating a Three Word Thematic Sentence	
_____ Power _____	→ _____ Community _____
Key Idea 1	Key Idea 2
Example: <i>Tradition fuels conformity</i>	
<i>When people are afraid to question their heritage, tradition can lead to conformity.</i>	
What is the relationship between these two key ideas? How are they connected?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads to/ Creates/ Fuels/ Breeds/ Inspires/ Heals/ Fixes / Becomes • Ruins / Destroys/ Minimizes/ Harms/ Turns/ Ends/ Breaks 	

When power is put in the hands of one person in a community, it can be hard to defend yourself/stray from what is expected/stray from tradition/