

A **main idea** is the important or main point that a writer makes in an article or a story. The writer often uses **details** to **support** their thinking or the main idea.

Life Was Tough

"Tommy," began grandfather, "My life was so difficult when I was a kid."

"Why?" I asked.

"Well, my day started before the sun rose and ended when it was setting. You see, I worked in a factory where everyone was expected to work twelve or more hours each day. I felt like my entire life revolved around working at that place."

"Why didn't you just find a different job?" I asked.

"Times were tough back then. Most people were out of work, and if you could find a job, you took it; even if it was a challenge."

"I wouldn't like that job. I like being able to play baseball or video games. If I worked long hours like that, I doubt I'd have time to do anything I wanted."

Grandfather began to chuckle. "Well, my work was pretty demanding but I would find some time to hangout with people after work, especially when I met your grandmother."

I knew the story of how my grandparents met but I loved to hear grandpa retell it. "How did the two of you meet again?" I asked.

Grandfather looked out the window for a minute, and a big smile formed around the edges of his face.

"We actually met at the factory. Many couples met that way because of the long hours we all put in during the week. Your grandmother was working in another department the day I got hurt."

Grandfather held up his arm, and I saw the old scar he got injured by during work one time. Grandpa had told me that accidents were quite common around big machines when he was a young man. Thankfully, there are more safeguards in place today so that people don't get injured as much.

"Your grandmother saw the metal clip my arm, and she rushed right to me. She helped wrap the wound until others came to assist her. I came back the next day and thanked her for her help. After a few weeks of talking, we started dating."

"I'm shocked you couldn't take the next day off or see a doctor," I said.

"Tommy, I told ya, things were just so tough back then. We didn't have any labor unions to help us, and I couldn't afford a doctor. All us workers received terrible pay compared to young people today. Most workers don't even realize how good they have it."

"I guess I just didn't realize how tough things were back then"

"Yeah, but that's enough talk about my past. Are you ready to head to the movies? I can't wait to taste that movie theater popcorn!"

Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail
Main Idea		