3 CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

READING SKILL Find the main idea

The main idea is the most important thought in a piece of writing. It is the topic plus what the writer wants to say about the topic. Sometimes the main idea is stated at the beginning of a text but it may also appear elsewhere in the text. When you read, ask yourself: "What is the text about?" and then, "What does the writer want to tell me about the topic?"

A Read the Reading Skill. Answer the questions.

1. Read the letter. Underline the sentence that tells you the main idea.
2. Which statement best describes the main idea?
   a. People should be open to opinions and advice from others.
   b. Only listen to advice from people you trust and get along with.
   c. There are many different ways to give good advice.

B Read the letter again. Circle the correct answers.

1. Elena wrote this letter to the editor to ___.
   a. show people that she is smart
   b. sell more of her bags
   c. share some helpful advice
2. This bag was very important to Elena because ___.
   a. she was excited that her co-workers liked the design
   b. she believed that this was her best idea as a designer
   c. she wanted to show that she was a good designer
3. Lin's suggestion made the bag ___ and easier to sell.
   a. more elegant b. useful to more people c. cheaper to make
4. Her teacher's advice helped Elena because ___.
   a. it made her more open to other people's ideas
   b. it made her feel bad about her own design
   c. it made her feel better about her own ideas

C FOCUS ON LANGUAGE Reread lines 10–11 in the letter. Think about the phrases *after dark* and *huge seller*. Circle the correct answers.

1. The expression *after dark* means ***without lights*** / ***at night*** / ***in black clothes***.
2. The phrase *huge seller* means ***sold in big sizes*** / ***sold in large numbers*** / ***sold in small numbers***.

LIVEWORKSHEETS