

# Theme

**Theme**  
The message, moral, or lesson that the author wants you to take away from the story.



**Cooperation**  
Characters who work together to solve a problem or reach a goal.

**Acceptance**  
Characters who respect and accept each others' differences.

**Loyalty**  
Characters who trust each other and never turn their backs on one another.

**Kindness**  
Characters who are kind and generous to others.

Just as crème can be hidden inside a crème-filled cupcake, a theme is hidden in a story.


**Compassion**  
Characters who want to help others who are suffering.

**Courage**  
Brave characters who have the courage to overcome a fear or accept a risk.

**Honesty**  
Characters who find that it is always best to tell the truth.

**perseverance**  
Characters who never give up even during difficult times.

**Good vs. Evil**  
Good characters prevail and evil characters are defeated.



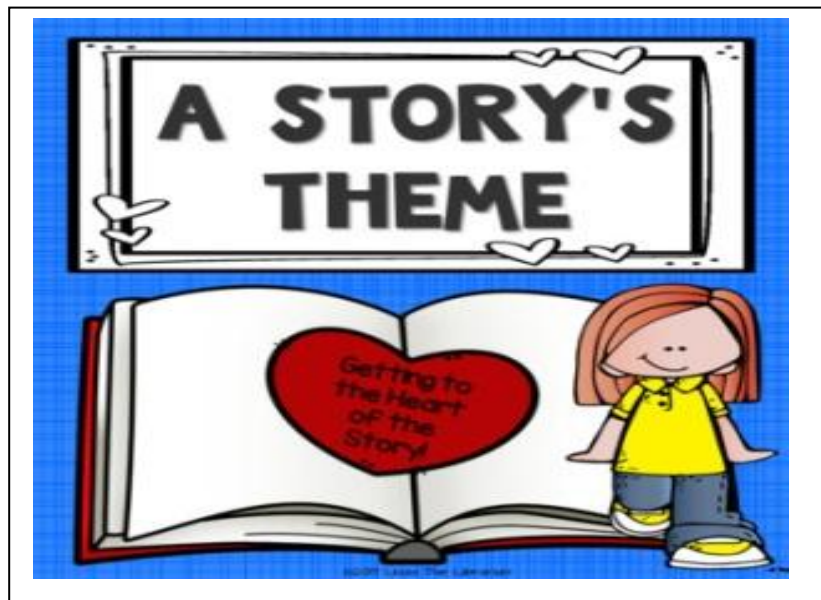
Is what the story teaches readers the life lesson, meaning, moral, or message about life or human nature that is communicated by a literary work.



## Common Themes in Books

You will find that many books include a theme, or lesson, that is revealed as you read the story. Below are common themes you will find in your books.

<b>Acceptance</b>	These books have characters who respect & accept others' differences and beliefs.
<b>Courage</b>	These books have brave characters who have the strength to overcome a fear or accept a risk.
<b>Perseverance</b>	These books have characters who never give up even when facing difficult times.
<b>Cooperation</b>	These books have characters who work together to solve a problem or achieve a goal.
<b>Compassion</b>	These books have characters who want to make those who are suffering feel better.
<b>Honesty</b>	These books have characters who find that it is best to always tell the truth.
<b>Kindness</b>	These books have friendly characters who are generous and considerate of others.
<b>Loyalty</b>	These books have characters who trust each other and never turn their backs on their friends.



## Theme vs. Subject/Topic

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>theme</b> is not the same as a subject.</li> </ul>                                   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>theme</b> is the idea the writer wishes to reveal <b>about</b> a subject.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>subject</b> is the topic a writer is writing about.</li> </ul>                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>theme</b> is usually expressed in a full sentence.</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>subject</b> is usually expressed in a word or two: love, childhood, death.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Most people can be themselves around their families” is a theme.</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Families” is a subject.</li> </ul>  |

# THEME vs TOPIC

Theme is the central message conveyed through the writing.

Topic is the subject matter discussed in the writing.

Theme explains why that particular piece of writing was written.

Topic explains what that writing is about.

Theme is not directly stated in the work.

Topic is generally directly given in the work.

Theme is specific as it reflects an opinion.

Topic is more general as it denotes the subject.

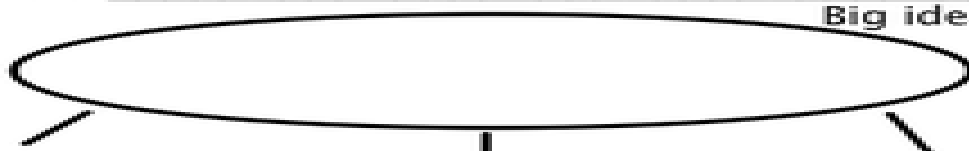
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## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Big idea or topic:



What characters say and do that demonstrate this:

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What is important to learn (THE MESSAGE you take):

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# THEME

The **theme** of a story is the **message, lesson** or **moral** that the author wants you to learn. Think about what the characters do and say.

THE

BIG



Idea

Evidence

Evidence

Evidence

Message or Lesson

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Theme



Write the theme (message) of your story in the scroll at the top of the page. Then write three examples from the text that demonstrate the theme you selected.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Three large, rounded rectangular boxes arranged horizontally. Each box is connected to the scroll above by a line. At the bottom of each box is a label 'Page #' followed by a blank line for writing the page number.

Page # \_\_\_\_\_

Page # \_\_\_\_\_

Page # \_\_\_\_\_

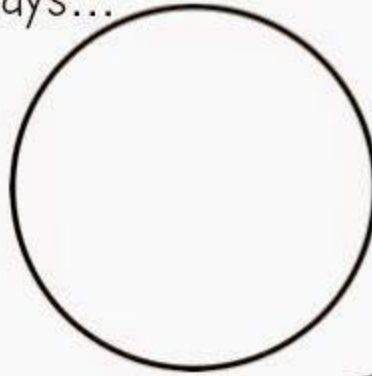
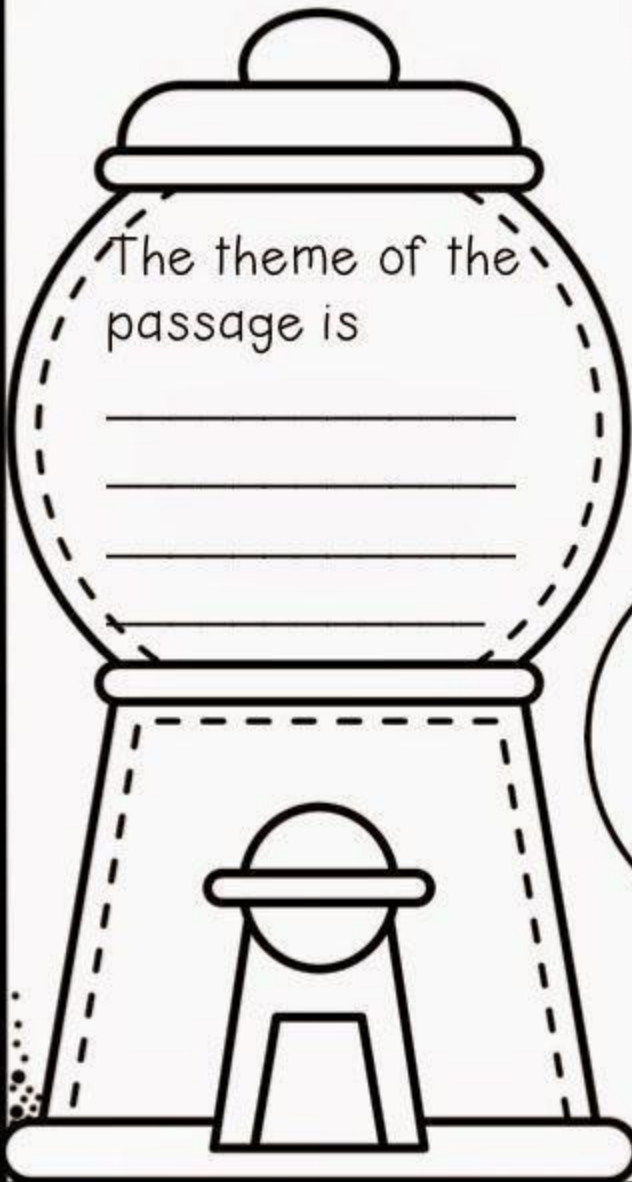


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# What Stuck With You? :

I know this because the text says...



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting to the Heart of \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the main character?

What is the character's problem?

Does the problem get solved? If so, how or what is the conclusion of the story?

What does the character learn?

What is the theme of the story?

