

Lesson 1: Theme

The Theme

THE MESSAGE

Theme is the message or lesson that the author wants you to learn from the story.

The theme is like the main idea of the whole story. As a reader we can find parts of the theme throughout the beginning, middle, and end.

Before we can find a theme of a story, we must look for topics within the story.

Common Theme Topics

• Friendship	• Kindness	• Challenges
• Honesty	• Fears	• Not giving up
• Courage	• Peace	• Differences
• Freedom	• Hope	• Teamwork
• Equality	• Helping others	• Working hard
• Growing up	• Racism	• Family

After reading, think about ...

What lesson did the characters learn?

How did the characters grow or change?

What is the story really about?

Finding the Theme

Think!

- First, think of topics from the story. Was it about family, friends, having hope, or another topic?

- Next, you will write a sentence about this topic
"The author believes that _____"

- Last, you will cross out "The author believes that"
Here is an example:
~~"The author believes that~~ a person should be kind to everyone."

- You are left with the theme of the story.
"A person should be kind to everyone."

Supporting Evidence

Finding the Evidence

When we find a theme, we must support our thinking with evidence. The last step in finding a theme is supporting it with details from the story.

- What sentences from the story support your theme?
- Can you find evidence in the beginning, middle, and end?
- Use these sentences to support your thinking.

Author's Purpose

When finding what the author's purpose was, we are trying to find out why did the author wrote the story. We want to know why the author wrote the story because it will give the reader a better understanding of the story.

The author's purpose is all about

PIE!

Persuade

Inform

Entertain

P = Persuade

Persuade means to convince someone to do something or convince them.

If an author is trying to persuade you, they are trying to get you to do something or believe what they are saying in the story.

For example:

- "This pie is so delicious, you will want to go buy one right now"
- "Pies are on sale today! What a great price!"

These sentences make you want to eat pie!

I = Inform

To inform, means to give information.

The author is giving you information about a topic.

If the book is a non-fiction book, the book is about facts and is not a made up story. The author is informing you.

For example:

- "The average person in Canada eats six slices of pie each year."
- "Pie has been around for a very long time."

These sentences give you information!

Watch this video before continuing with the activity on the next page:



The Empty Pot: <https://youtu.be/wE750PR9kdk>

In the space provided, write a sentence about what the author believes. Look back at to "Finding the Theme" in the course for a reminder of the steps you will need to take.

1. A list of topics in the story:

2. Sentence about what the author believes:

The author believes _____

3. Sentence you are left with about the theme after crossing out “the author believes”:
