

What is the theme?





The theme is the deeper meaning or message. It is not the plot or a summary. It is deeper. Think of it as the lesson the author wants you to learn!

Important things to remember when we talk about theme:

- The theme is often inferred. The author usually will not say “the theme is...”
- Different readers might identify different themes in the same book. This is ok!
 - Books can have more than 1 theme.
- There will be different points to support a theme throughout a book.
- If you are stuck, think about what the main character learned.



Think about it:

What is the
message the
author is trying
to share?



Think about it:

Is there a lesson
the author was
trying to teach the
reader?



Think about it:

What did the
character
learn?



Think about it:

Can you find
the main
idea?



Common Topics:



- friendship
- teamwork
- family relationships
 - loyalty
 - compassion
 - differences
 - courage
 - honesty
- accepting yourself
- perseverance
- coping with feelings
 - sharing
 - working hard
 - self-control
 - survival
- growing up
- holidays
- dealing with loss or grief
 - fairness
 - equity
- making a difference
- hope for the future
 - racism
- overcoming challenges
 - using your voice
 - peace
- celebrating differences
 - jealousy
- human versus nature
 - cooperation
 - good vs. evil

Think about it:

The topic is like a hashtag. It is usually one word.



Examples of Themes



- It's ok to be different.
- Working together can help you achieve your goals.
 - Appearances can be deceiving.
- Sometimes the fast way isn't the best way.
 - Appreciate the things you have.
- Stand up for who and what you believe in.
 - Family is important.
 - Believe in yourself.
- Excluding others can make them sad.
 - Have respect for nature.
- It takes courage to do the right thing.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

It's important to know that the theme is different from the main idea.

The theme is the moral, lesson or message of a story.

The main idea is what the story is mostly about.

In a story, a boy is caught lying about his homework being done so that he could go outside and play with his friends. He gets caught and isn't allowed to play outside the rest of the week.

The main idea in this story is that the boy lied about finishing his homework.

The theme of this story is that honesty is the best policy.



Find the main idea and the theme.

A soccer team has practiced hard all year. They have still lost every game they have played. This week they had an extra practice. Before the game, they talked about each team member's strengths. They played hard and won their first game.



Find the main idea and the theme.

Our class decided that we wanted to help clean up the park by our school. It was dirty and some boards were broken which made it not safe. We worked to find volunteers who could help us clean up and repair the broken parts. We spent our Saturday making the park a better place to play.



Find the main idea and the theme.

My friend wasn't at school today because she was sick. She missed our special guest reader and I knew she was sad. I made her a special get well card and had our classmates sign it. I dropped it off at her house after school.



Find the main idea and the theme.

I learned a new skill on the balance beam yesterday. It looked hard and a little scary. I practiced over and over on the ground first. Then, I was able to practice on the balance beam. I only fell once. By the end of class, I felt confident in what I had learned.



Name: _____

The book I read is:

The author is:

The theme is...

The main idea is...

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You can use words and pictures to share your response.

Name: _____

The book I read is:

The author is:

Who is the main character? (or characters)

What does the main character learn?

What is the main idea?

What is the theme?

You can use words and pictures to share your response.

Name: _____

Theme Hunt

Choose six themes and record one in each box. Can you find a book that fits each theme? Record the titles in the boxes.

Theme: Book:	Theme: Book:	Theme: Book:
Theme: Book:	Theme: Book:	Theme: Book:

Name: _____

The book I read is:

The author is:

I think the topic is...

(Circle one)

- the value of friendship
 - teamwork
- family relationships
 - loyalty

• showing compassion for others

- celebrating differences
 - showing courage
 - honesty
- accepting yourself
 - perseverance

- growing up
- learning about holidays
- dealing with loss or grief
 - fairness
 - equity
- making a difference
- coping with feelings
 - sharing
 - working hard
- showing self-control
 - survival

- hope for the future
 - racism
- overcoming challenges
 - using your voice
 - peace
- celebrating differences
 - jealousy
- human versus nature
 - cooperation
 - good vs. evil

I think the theme is...

The evidence I read that makes me think this is...

Name: _____

The book I read is:

The author is:

The theme is...

The evidence from the book is...

You can use words and pictures to share your response.

Name: _____

The book I read is:

The author is:

HASHTAG it!

The theme is...

The evidence from the book is...

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I would use this hashtag...

You can use words and pictures to share your response.

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

The hashtag I would use is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

The hashtag I would use is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

The hashtag I would use is...

Name: _____

The book is...

The theme is...

The hashtag I would use is...

Name: _____

The theme is...

The evidence is...

Name: _____

The theme is...

The evidence is...

Name: _____

The theme is...

The evidence is...

Name: _____

The theme is...

The evidence is...