

What is Theme?

Student Notes

What is something about life that you believe to be true? That family is important?	Friends
should be loyal? Hard work is rewarded? Write your thoughts below:	
-	

Your thoughts about life can be considered a "theme."

In literature, theme refers to an abstract idea or belief that is inferred by that actions of the characters and the plot.

There can be more than one theme as well.

For example: In the fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood," themes may include the importance of family, being wary of strangers, and good vs. evil.

"Little Red Riding Hood" has a moral as well: "Don't talk to strangers."

Is theme the same as moral?

No. Review this Venn diagram to note the differences.

Theme

- Overarching
- Like an "umbrella" idea that runs through the entire story
- An abstract idea about life
- Might be just one word like "courage" or "love"
- Inferred from the characters & plot

Theme & Moral

A way for readers to think about the text

Moral

- A lesson the writer wants the reader to learn
- Stated usually at the end
- Clear. The reader doesn't need to infer.
- Usually a sentence of adage like "haste makes waste"

@MARYPAT MAHONEY

JUST ADD STUDENTS

Here are some common themes you may encounter in literature.

Common
Themes in
Literature

Ambition ✓ Rebirth Change / growth ✓ Self-awareness ✓ Challenges help us understand ✓ The will to survive ourselves and others ✓ Understanding Coming of age (growing up) ✓ Value of differences Courage ✓ War Death Other themes to consider: ✓ Desire for something (power/ social status/goods, etc.) ✓ Evils of racism/ Prejudice **√** ✓ Family ____ Freedom Friendship **√** _____ Good vs evil Honor ✓ _____ Inequality Justice/revenge Love triumphs

CMARYPAT MAHONEY JUST ADD STUDENTS

Loyalty

✓ Overcoming adversity

Analysis #1 Graphic Organizer

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the theme as you watch a short video.

Remember that theme is an overarching idea that runs throughout the video.

There may be more than one theme. Look over the list of themes if you need help.

Name of the video you	are analyzing:
What is one possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
What is another possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
	@MARYPAT MAHONEY JUST ADD STUDENTS

Your Thoughts

Analysis #1 Reflection Outline
Part 1

Review your Graphic Organizer #1. Based on what you observe, write an analysis of the theme. The steps below will help you get started.

Step 1: Identify what you'll be writing about.

For example: I am analyzing the theme of the short film "Mike's New Car."

I am analyzing the theme of:

<u>Step 2</u>: Choose a theme. Use "Common Themes in Literature" to focus your topic. For example: *I am considering the theme of self -awareness.*

I am considering this theme:

<u>Step 3</u>: What position will you be taking? What points will you be arguing or sharing with your reader?

For example: I'm taking the position that Mike gains self -awareness through his failure to successfully use and understand his new car.

I am taking the position that:

Step 4: Combine Steps 1 - 3 into a thesis (or "big idea") statement.

Remove "I" or any first person pronouns.

Think about the main ideas you want to share as you write the sentence.

For example: The theme of the short film "Mike's New Car" focuses on how failure can lead to self-awareness.

Your thesis or "big idea" statement:

Analysis #2 Graphic Organizer

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the theme.

Remember that theme is an overarching idea that runs throughout a story.

There may be more than one theme. Look over the list of themes if you need help.

You are analyzing:	
What is one possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
What is another possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
	©MARYPAT MAHONEY JUST ADD STUDENTS

Your Thoughts

Analysis #2 Reflection Outline
Part 1

Review your Graphic Organizer #2. Based on what you observe, write an analysis of the theme. The steps below will help you get started.

Step 1: Identify what you'll be writing about.

I am analyzing the theme of:
0. 0 0
Step 2: Choose a theme. Use "Common Themes in Literature" to focus your topic.
I am considering this theme:
Tam considering this treme.
Step 3: What position will you be taking? What points will you be arguing or sharing with your
reader?
reader:
I am taking the position that:

Step 4: Combine Steps 1 - 3 into a thesis (or "big idea") statement.Remove "I" or any first person pronouns.Think about the main ideas you want to share as you write the sentence.

Your thesis or "big idea" statement:

Expanding Your Thoughts

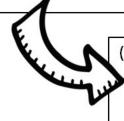
Analysis #2 -Reflection Outline Part 2

Now that you have an idea of what your focus will be. You need evidence.

Use the graphic organizer below to collect it.	You can add more evidence if you like.
--	--

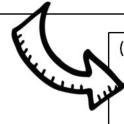
Your claim/ thesis or "big idea" statement:

(evidence) I know this because of this:



(explain what the evidence means) This shows that:

(evidence) This also supports my claim:



(explain what the evidence means) This shows:

In conclusion:

Analysis #3 Graphic Organizer

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the theme.

Remember that theme is an overarching idea that runs throughout a story.

There may be more than one theme. Look over the list of themes if you need help.

You are analyzing:	
What is one possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
What is another possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	

Your Thoughts

Analysis #3

Review your theme diagram. Based on what you observe, analyze the theme.
Lam analysis sthe thomas of
I am analyzing the theme of:
I am considering the following:
My claim/ thosis/ "big idea":
My claim/ thesis/ "big idea":
My evidence:
M/vita a abort draft of your thorac analysis bare.
Write a short draft of your theme analysis here:
-
·

Analysis #4 Graphic Organizer

Use this graphic organizer to identify the elements of the theme.

Remember that theme is an overarching idea that runs throughout a story.

There may be more than one theme. Look over the list of themes if you need help.

You are analyzing:	
What is one possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	
What is another possible theme?	
What evidence supports that?	

Analysis #4: What is important?

Analysis #4 Write about it

The film or text you are analyzing:		
/hat is the theme and how do you know?		
	2	Whiting Objective
		Writing Checklist
		You responded to the promp
		You have a clear point you ar
		trying to make (thesis)
		Used text evidence to
		support your claims
		Correct paragraph &
		sentence structure
	\dashv	Correct writing conventions
		Correct writing conventions

What do you think?

Look over the theme analysis activities you've completed. Respond to the following questions.

- 1. What part of analyzing theme is the easiest for you? Why?
- 2. What part of analyzing theme is the most difficult for you? Why?
- 3. What new insight did you gain about the importance of the theme?
- 4. Did analyzing the theme of a short film help you better understand it?
- 5. How can analyzing the theme help you understand the text better?

Circle one. I would rate my theme analysis abilities as:







