

What is theme?

Theme is an **idea**
about **life** or human
nature that an
author is trying to
share with readers.



NEXT

Theme is NOT...

a one word **topic**

It must be stated
in **sentence** form.



Theme is NOT...
directly stated,
unless you are
reading a **fable**.
Themes must be
inferred.



Use

Shine?



to find
them!





SHINE

is an acronym that
can help you find
a story's theme.



NEXT

S: Subject

ASK YOURSELF...

**What is the subject (or
topic) of the story?**

Dig Deep!

Think about LIFE.



NEXT

L: Lesson

ASK YOURSELF...

What **lesson** does the main character **learn** about the subject or topic? Or, what does the reader learn from the character's experiences?



NEXT

I: Idea M: Message

ASK YOURSELF...

What idea or message is the author sharing about the topic? This is the theme.

Perhaps the author is trying to say...



E: Evidence
ASK YOURSELF...

**What evidence supports
this theme?**

**Find 2-3 specific text
details to help you check
your answer.**



NEXT

Extra Tips...

DO NOT...
state the theme as a **cliché**.
A cliché is an
overused expression.



The theme is:
"It's a small world."

Example

Clichés
make me
sleepy...



NEXT

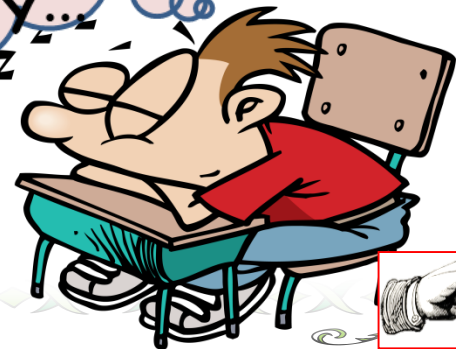
Extra Tips...

Do NOT...
make the theme sound like
a command. It is an
observation about life.



NEVER
judge a
book by
its cover!

Bossy
people
make me
sleepy...



Example

NEXT

Common Topics in Literature

Acceptance
Courage
Trust
Compassion
Kindness

Cooperation
Loss
Power
Fate

There are many
more.



NEXT