

Theme & Central Message

Third Grade ELA



Learning Objective



I can determine the theme or central message and explain it using key details.

What is theme or central message?

- It is a lesson or message that we can learn from reading a story.
- It is NOT:
 - What the story is all about
 - Just one word



How do we find the theme in a story?



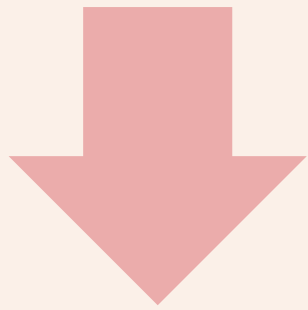
While reading think about:

1. What problem happened?
2. How was the problem solved?
3. How did the character change?
4. What lesson did the characters learn?

Take the topic and turn it into a lesson we can learn using details from the text.

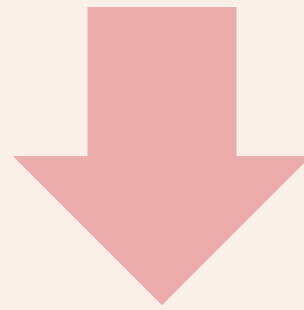
Examples of theme or central message

Topic: Friendship



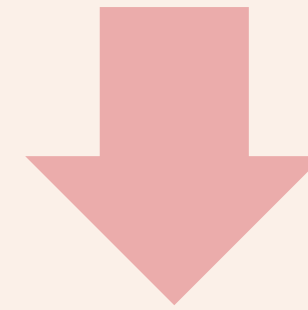
Theme: Good
friends help each
other.

Topic: Honesty



Theme: Being
honest builds
trust.

Topic: Bullying



Theme: Standing
up for others is
important.

Key Details Matter

It's important to find details from the text that match the theme.

Example Theme:

Trying new things can help you grow.



Example Details:

- At the beginning the character was afraid.
- The character tried something outside their comfort zone.
- The character learned something new and gained confidence.

Teacher Model

Passage

Liam wanted to make the soccer team more than anything. At the first practice, he missed the ball and felt embarrassed. "Maybe I'm not good at soccer," he sighed.

After school each day, Liam practiced kicking the ball and worked hard to improve his skills.

At the final tryout, Liam played much better and even scored a goal. When the coach read the team list, Liam smiled when he heard his name.

Theme:

Hard work and practice can help you improve.

Details:

- Liam struggled at first.
- He practiced every afternoon.
- He improved and made the team.



Guided Practice #1

Passage

Mia noticed a new girl sitting alone at lunch. The girl looked nervous and kept staring at her tray. Some kids whispered and laughed because the girl spoke quietly and wore different clothes.

Mia remembered how lonely she felt when she first moved to the school. She walked over with a smile and asked, "Do you want to sit with me?" Soon, other students joined them. By the end of lunch, the new student was smiling and laughing.

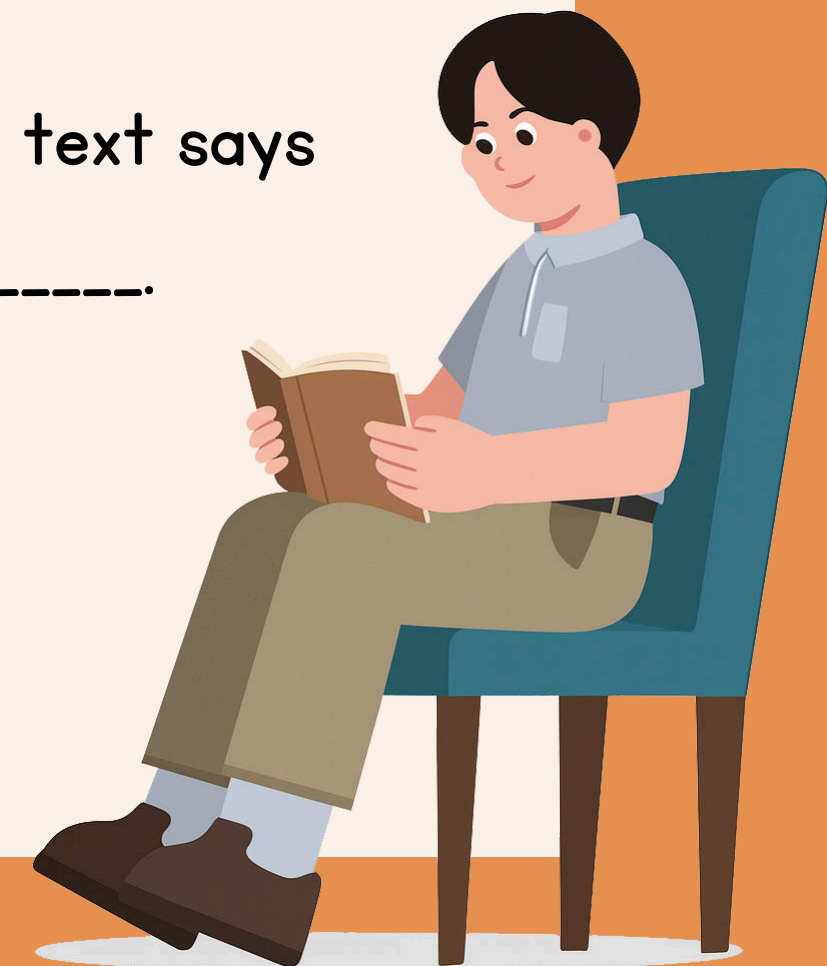
Sentence Stems

The theme is

_____.

I know because the text says

_____.



Guided Practice #2

Passage

Ethan accidentally spilled juice on his library book. He thought about hiding it, but he felt guilty.

The next morning, he told the librarian what happened and offered to help pay for a new copy. Instead of getting upset, the librarian thanked him for being honest.

Sentence Stems

The theme is

_____.

I know because the text says

_____.



Great job!

What did you learn about
theme and central
message?

