



Theme/Message

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The theme is the lesson or message that the writer wants to get across in his or her story.

Usually theme is a statement about life or the way the world works. People apply these lessons or ideas to their own lives.



How do I find theme?

To find the theme, ask yourself, What lesson did the main character in the story learn or fail to learn? Other questions to ask yourself:

- What is the moral of the story?
 - What lesson is the author trying to teach?
 - Which idea in the story can relate to everyday life?
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Motifs

- To understand theme, it helps to start with a motif.
- A motif is a recurring idea that helps to develop the theme.
- A motif is usually a one word idea.



Common Motifs

Strength/Power

Perseverance

Believe in yourself/others

Integrity (doing what is right)

Freedom

Beauty

Sacrifice



How is the theme developed throughout the text?

- Through characters' actions
- Through key plot details
- Through the conflict
- Motifs that appear throughout the text



Common Themes

The more you read, the more you will notice that some themes are used again and again. Here are some common themes:

- Too much pride can destroy a person
- Crime does not pay
- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Going through hard times can make a person stronger
- Love conquers all



Let's Practice!

As you watch the short film John Henry, think about the motifs and themes that you see.



Legend - Line of Thinking

What do you think the author's theme/message of this book might be?

How do you think this theme will impact what happens in the rest of the book?



Legend - Theme

Doing the right thing even when it's hard.

Examples:

Day staying away from his family

June saving Tess from the Skiz fight

June leaving Tess behind when Day was set-up

June questioning Commander Jameson.

