Clarifying Theme

Remember, A **THEME** is the **central message or insight** into life revealed through literature.

Themes tell us something about humanity (a universal truth).

.Remember, a theme is more than a single word or idea. It is the insight about the idea.

IDEA + INSIGHT = THEME

Theme, however, is not always easy to determine. Use the following chart to help you determine the theme of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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| Questions to Help Clarify Theme | Response (Examples from text to support) |
| 1. Does the title signify something about the story? Does it point to the truth the story reveals about life? (Not all titles do.)
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| 1. Does the main character change in the course of the story? Does the main character realize something he or she had not known before?
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| 1. Consider conflict:
2. What is the main conflict?
3. Whose side is represented?
4. How is it resolved? (Who wins? Who loses?)
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| 1. Are any important statements about life or people in the story made – either by the narrator or by characters in the story?
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| 1. In one sentence, state the story’s theme.
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