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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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.) |  |
| 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? |  |
| 1. Consider conflict: 2. What is the main conflict? 3. Whose side is represented? 4. How is it resolved? (Who wins? Who loses?) |  |
| 1. Are any important statements about life or people in the story made – either by the narrator or by characters in the story? |  |
| 1. In one sentence, state the story’s theme. |  |