

Theme

The **theme** is the central message or insight into life revealed through the literary work. The theme is not a summary of the plot. It is a generalization about people or about life that is communicated to the reader through the literary work.

Sometimes the theme is stated directly in a sentence or two. Sometimes the theme is implied. Readers must read between the lines and think about what the work seems to say about the nature of people or of life. As you read, look for details that support the story theme. Remember, there is no single correct statement of the theme of a selection. But there can be an incorrect statement of a theme. Also, a long work can have several themes.

DIRECTIONS: On the lines, write information about the theme of a selection:

Selection title: _____

Plot summary: _____

Theme: _____

Direct statement of theme from the selection: _____

Implied theme: _____

Details that support the implied theme: _____
