

# THEME TRACKER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pd \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Type \_\_\_\_\_

Brainstorm five topics that can be found within the work. Think of character or narrator actions, words, and thoughts. Think of repeating elements, within the work. Plot events are also important to analyze.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Choose the topic that has the strongest link to the story and write a theme sentence. Your sentence must be complex in nature and must be general, not specific to the story.

Find three examples of contextual evidence within the work. Prove that your theme is central to the story by finding quotes. Evidence can come from character words, actions, and thoughts. The narrator's comments are also a good source of evidence.

1.

2.

3.

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## How to find a theme:

*A theme is the lesson that you are supposed to learn from a work of art. It has the following requirements:*

1. It can apply to anyone in the world, not just the characters in the story. The theme must not mention specific characters or situations, it must be a general statement.
  - “Batman and Robin are great friends and they fight crime together well because of their friendship” is not a theme because it’s too specific.
  - “Friendship at work makes work more pleasant” is a theme because it can apply to anyone.
2. The theme must be a lesson or moral of some kind, even if you don’t agree with it.
  - “Women are evil, but they hide it well” is a lesson that you might not agree with, but it’s the writer’s opinion and counts as a theme.
3. The theme must not be a single word, but a complex idea.
  - “Love” is not a theme
  - “Love has the power to heal even the deepest hurts” is a theme because it’s a complex idea
4. The theme must not be simplistic, it must be a complex idea that is not necessarily obvious.
  - “Love is a good thing” is too simple, but “Love is a good thing, but it can sometimes hurt,” is a theme.
5. It is not obviously stated in the story. You must figure it out on your own.
6. You must be able to find contextual clues (evidence) in the story that prove that this theme exists in the story. If you cannot find evidence, then it’s not a theme.