

# 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—use the eight guidelines on the back of this paper. 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.

# THEME TRACKER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pd \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Stories can have multiple themes**
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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
- 5. 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.
- 6. It is not obviously stated in the story. You must figure it out on your own.**
- 7. Plot events are not theme:**
  - "A man becomes suddenly rich and wants to impress an old girlfriend"
  - "When you use a time machine to travel to the past, bad things can happen"
  - "Waking up as a cockroach can ruin your life"
- 8. A fact is not the same as theme:**
  - "The sky is blue"
  - "Animals can be dangerous"
- 9. 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.**
- 10. Some stories do not offer answers, only questions; they make you think about the meaning of things. These stories are likely to have a theme that is a question:**
  - What does it mean to be good or evil, and can a person be both?
  - Is there life after death, and can a spirit reach out to the living?