

# All About Theme



# Where Are Themes?

Theme can be found in poems, drama, or stories.

The theme is the message, or lesson, that the author wants you to learn from the story.



# Where Are Themes?

The theme is not always directly stated by the author.

Sometimes, as a reader, you will have to think about the events of the story to determine the theme.



# When trying to determine the theme, ask yourself...

- What was the problem in the story?
- How did the characters respond to the problem?
- How did the characters change in the story?
- What did the characters learn in the story?
- What sticks with you, as the reader?



# Common Themes

Love

Respect

Forgiveness

Hope

Teamwork

Courage

Friendship

Honesty

Overcoming Challenges

Be happy with yourself

# Give it a try!

Read this short story, and talk to a partner about what the theme may be.

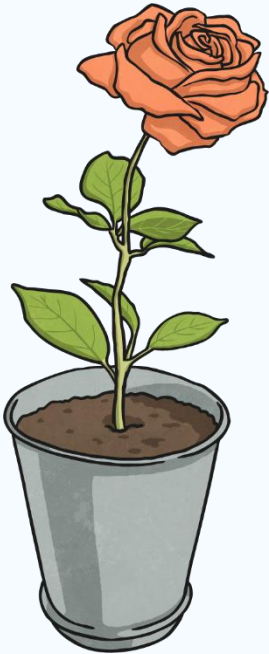
Derryon came into the classroom each day with a smile on his face as he said hello to all his classmates. He loved to help others. When a classmate dropped their crayon box, Derryon was the first to stop and help. If a friend was confused about a question, he would do his best to help them understand. One week, Derryon caught a cold. He was out of school for a whole week. When he came back, he was very behind on his work, and felt lost in class. All of his classmates were excited to help Derryon get caught up. Some friends even gave up their recess time to help Derryon understand the math lessons he missed.



# Give it a try!

Read this poem and talk to a partner about what the theme of the poem may be.

If everyday, you were sad and blue  
Just because you were you,  
Then every day would be wasted away  
From all the wonderful things you could do and say.



A flower begins just small and brown  
Then grows and blooms up from the ground.  
The new creation is stunning to see,  
As it become the thing it is meant to be.



# Give it a try!

Read this short story, and talk to a partner about what the theme of the story may be.

Janessa wanted to start a new recycling program at her school. She made a list of over 40 things she needed to do to get the project started. She began by meeting with her principal, researching recycling cans, and contacting the city about recycling pick up. Janessa was getting tired. She was having a hard time getting the program started, while also making sure she completed her homework and went to soccer practice. Janessa told her friends Kathy and Haley about her difficulties. Kathy and Haley suggested they make a recycling club, so that everyone can help Janessa get the recycling program started. The girls scheduled a club meeting and passed out flyers. 12 students came to the club meeting, and each person took a job from Janessa's list. In no time, the list was complete and the recycling program was started!





