

Theme in Literature

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. The theme of a story is its _____.

- A. main character
- B. universal message
- C. basic plot
- D. most memorable sentence or phrase

2. You can always tell what the theme of a story is by _____.

- A. reading carefully to find where the author directly states it
- B. putting the main ideas together in a single sentence
- C. researching where and when the author lived
- D. examining the characters and plot

3. Which of the following might be the theme of a story?

- A. overcoming fear
- B. A brave young girl pretends to be a man and takes her father's place in the army.
- C. Some people are afraid of heights.
- D. "I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too."

4. What is the difference between the theme and the main idea of a story?

- A. A story only has one main idea but always has more than one theme.
- B. The author will tell you the theme somewhere in the text. You have to use clues to figure out the main idea.
- C. The main idea is what the story is mostly about. The theme is the universal message you take away from the story.
- D. There is no difference. Theme and main idea are the same.

5. Which of the following is a true statement?

- A. No two stories can have the same theme.
- B. Every story has a main idea, but not every story has a theme.
- C. Stories from different cultures will never have the same theme.
- D. Stories written in different cultures and times can have the same theme.

6. War destroys human values. This is an example of a _____.

- A. plot
- B. main idea
- C. fable
- D. theme

7. In a fable, the theme is _____.

- A. that evil wins out over good
- B. usually stated in a straightforward way
- C. a fact about childhood
- D. about talking animals

8. Which of the following would not be considered a theme?

- A. the pain of love
- B. the pressure of traditions
- C. a soldier coming home from World War I
- D. survival

9. Which of the following could be a theme of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*?

- A. respect for others
- B. why you shouldn't eat cold porridge
- C. the baby bear
- D. A curious girl breaks into a stranger's house.

10. You are writing a story with the theme of friendship. Which of the following would be the best way to get your theme across?

- A. make the plot a mystery
- B. have the characters get to know each other despite their differences
- C. have the characters never meet
- D. have the characters overcome a fear