

Understanding Theme

Interpreting the Central Message in Texts

Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

01

Define
“theme” in
literature

02

Identify
common
themes in
texts

03

Distinguish
theme from
topic and
main idea

04

Use textual
evidence to
support an
interpretation

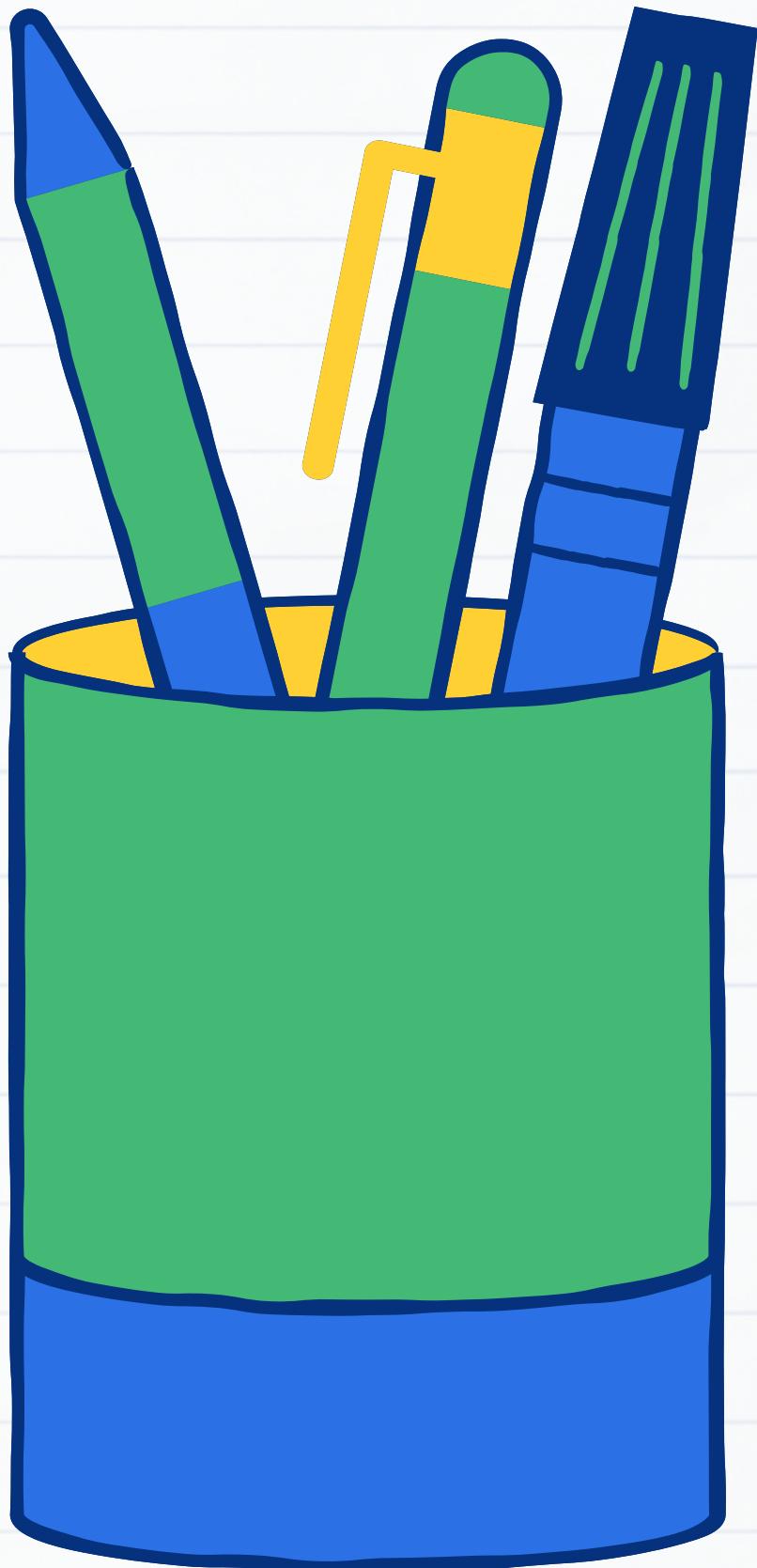
What Is Theme?

A theme is the central message or insight about life that the author conveys. It is:

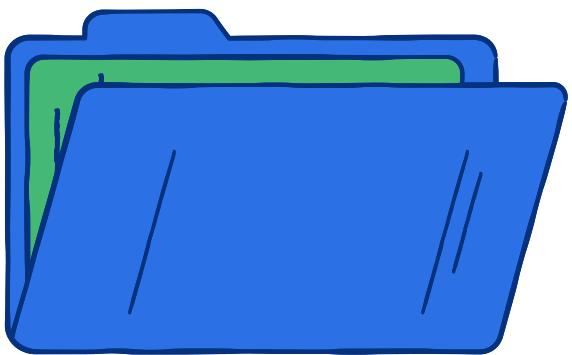
- A universal idea
- Implied (not directly stated)
- Revealed through characters, plot, and conflict

Examples:

- Friendship can help us overcome hard times.
- Power can corrupt even the most moral people.



Think



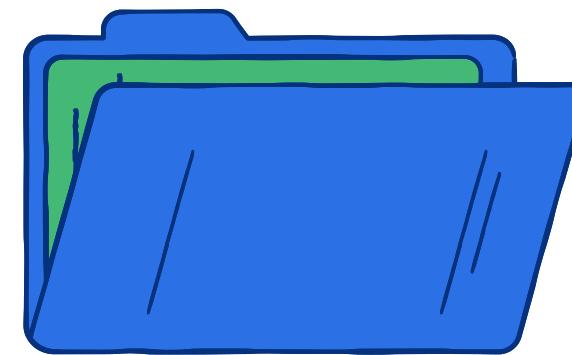
What is a book,
movie, or show
that has a
strong message?

Pair



Choose a
partner and
discuss your
answers.

Share

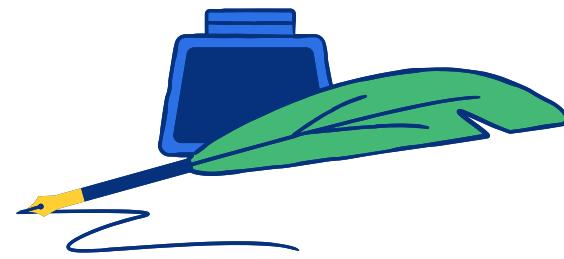


What was the
message or
theme? How do
you know?

Theme, Topic, or Main Idea?



Theme: What the story teaches (ex: True friendship can overcome obstacles)



Topic: The general subject or idea that the story focuses on (ex: Friendship)



Main Idea: What happens in the story (ex: Two friends reconnect after an argument)