**Theme**

A theme in a story is the is the deeper message or central idea. It comments on human experience, and more often a story relates to real life situations. All stories have at least one theme.

A theme gives the general view of the story. It gives the reader the insight into how the story characters live to pursue something good, the results of conflicts and how all these choices come to pass in their lives. In a story, there can be major and minor themes.

* A major theme is an idea the writer keeps on repeating in his work, portraying it as the most significant idea.
* The minor theme is the idea that appears briefly in the story.

**How to Identify a Theme of a Story**

Identifying a theme in a story can be difficult because it isn’t something stated in words but rather it’s something you get to determine on your own while reading the story. The theme of a story is the universal idea that can be deduced by the readers from the narrative and its described by the literary symbols that keep on appearing in course of the narrative.

To identify the theme of a story, you have to read through the story and understand the basics of the characterization, plot and other literary elements that are included in the story. Get to know the main subjects of the story. Get to know what the author’s view on the mentioned subjects is. Make sure not to confuse the subject of the story with its theme.

The subject is the topic acting as the base for the story whereas the theme is the opinion being expressed by the author on the subject.

**How to find the themes of a story:**

1. Identify the story elements and diagram the plot of the story.
2. Identify the subject of the story: What is the story about?
3. Analyze the the main character: How does the character feel? How does the character react to their feelings? What does the character do in the story? How does the character interact with other?
4. Summarize the story: Think about the story as a whole. What happened? How did the character change? How was the conflict resolved?
5. Identify what lesson was learned by the main character and why learning that lesson was important to the story and life in general?

**Common Topics and Themes**

Theme generally refers to the central idea or a perception conveyed in writing. A topic is the subject that is treated or presented within a story. Topics play the role of explaining what a story is all about, while, themes explain the reason why it was written in the first place. One topic can have multiple themes associated with it.

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| **Topic** | **Theme** |
| Love | Love is blind.  Treat others the way you want to be treated.  Love conquers all.  Forgive, even though you may not forget.  Everyone needs love. |
| Good vs. Evil | Do the right thing, even if it is hard to do.  There are two sides to every story.  Honesty is the best policy.  Help others in their time of need.  Crime does not pay.  Make good choices.  Think before you act. |
| Greed/ Jealous | Be happy with what you have.  Don't wish for what others possess.  Be careful what you wish for.  Selfishness will bring you misery.  Appearances are deceiving.  The grass isn't always greener on the other side. |
| Prejudice/Judgment | Don't judge a book by it's cover.  Things aren't always as they seem.  Accept others for who they are.  Don't underestimate the ability of others.  Even the biggest can use the help of the smallest.  Don't judge the actions of others. |
| Dedication / Perseverance | Hard work pays off.  Never give up.  Slow and steady wins the race.  Work hard for what you want in life.  Always try your best.  Growth can come from failure.  Hard work and patience pay off in the end.  Nothing worth doing is easy.  Sacrifice now brings reward later.  Plan ahead. |
| Home ,Friends, Family | There's no place like home.  Home is where the heart is.  Blood is thicker than water.  Families love each other no matter what.  Choose your friends wisely.  You can find friendship in unexpected places.  To have a good friend, you must be a good friend. |
| Courage | Face your fears.  It takes courage to stand alone.  Stand up for what you believe in.  Be true to yourself. |

**Importance of a Theme in a Story**

Getting to know the theme of a story is very important. This is because a theme gives a story life. The theme can be called the backbone and the essence of the story. The theme is usually connected to the main character’s internal journey. If the reader fails to get the plot of the story, they lose interest. Thus it is very important to know the theme of a story. The importance of theme in a story includes:

* A theme gives a story meaning and hence creating an emotional impact. A theme creates a difference between a great story that readers can relate to and a mediocre one. The theme adds an in-depth and creates a connection to the story. It is necessary for an author to have a good and clear understanding of the theme has this is the key to crafting great and awesome stories that readers will love.
* A theme helps readers to understand the story. Reading makes the reader understand several aspects of life. All humans whether old or young seek the meaning of life. If your story has a light theme or the theme doesn’t resonate, it tends to leave your readers unsatisfied.
* Theme creates a focused story. Theme acts as a guide to a story. It guides the story line hence prevents the writer from veering off the main idea and hence helps the story not to lose its focus.