

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LESSON

## 13

## RETEACHING WORKSHEET

## Theme

## COPY MASTER

**Review** The **theme** of a literary work is the writer's message about life or human nature. In fables or essays, the theme may be **stated** directly; in other genres, the theme is usually **implied**. A **recurring theme** is one that can be found in different texts of the same period. A theme that can be found throughout all of literature, that relates to people of all time periods and cultures, is a **universal theme**.

**Directions:** First **read** the boxed poem. Then **answer** the questions that follow.

**Dreams**

DREAM on, for dreams are sweet:	The wind is soft above,
Do not awaken!	10 The shadows umber,
Dream on, and at thy feet	(There is a dream called Love.)
Pomegranates shall be shaken.	Take thou the fullest slumber!
5 Who likeneth the youth	In Lethe's* soothing stream,
Of life to morning?	Thy thirst thou slakest.
'Tis like the night in truth,	15 Sleep, sleep; 't is sweet to dream.
Rose-coloured dreams adorning.	Oh, weep when thou awakest!
	— Paul Laurence Dunbar (American, 1872–1906)

\* **Lethe:** mythical river of forgetfulness

- What is the subject of the poem?
  - Sleep
  - dreams
- What word does the speaker use twice to describe dreams?
  - soft
  - sweet
- The speaker warns dreamers—
  - to wake up
  - not to wake up
- Write a theme statement for the poem.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you think the theme of this poem is universal or recurring? Explain.  
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