

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Theme Worksheet (Matching Part 1)

A theme is the central message of a story that the author wishes to convey to the reader.

Directions: Draw a line to match the theme to its message.

A. Courage

1. Stand by your friend in good and bad times.

B. Hope

2. Don't give up.

C. Friendship

3. The opposite of violence.

D. Peace

4. Remember those in your life.

E. Loyalty

5. Face your fears and don't be afraid.

F. Perseverance

6. Believe in something.

G. Dedication

7. Share your common interests and passions.

H. Honor

8. Stand up for someone or something.

I. Remembrance

9. Pay respect to someone or something.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Identifying Theme

**Directions:** Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. Write in complete sentences.

1. Katie Clean invited Messy Missy to her house to work on their biology project, but Katie Clean had no idea what a visit from Messy Missy entailed. First of all, it was raining and Messy Missy neither bothered to take her boots off nor thoroughly wiped them on the doormat. Then Messy Missy ate a bag of hot chips on Katie Clean's white bedspread without asking, and Messy Missy is a sloppy eater, so hot chip powder got all over the bedspread. Katie Clean tried to be polite and ignore Messy Missy's sloppy behavior, but then Messy Missy threw her chip wrapper on the floor. Offended, Katie Clean pretended that she was sick and asked Messy Missy to leave. The next day Katie Clean asked the teacher if she could work by herself. After explaining her situation, the teacher allowed Katie to work alone. Messy Missy would have finished the assignment by herself, but she spilled grape soda all over her assignment.

What is the theme of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Money Mark was born rich. He never had to work a day in his life and he got everything handed to him on a silver platter. When he was six, Money Mark wanted to go to a basketball game. His father paid the starting five of the Bulls and Celtics to play a private game of Nerf-ball in Money Mark's bedroom. When Money Mark turned thirteen, he wanted to start a band. His father hired the Rolling Stones to play with him every Saturday at the family's private concert hall, though his family was never there. By the time he was twenty-one, Money Mark was bored with life. He was surrounded by a bunch of possessions that he didn't appreciate and Money Mark could find nothing new or exciting in his life. Despite his vast wealth, Money Mark never found happiness. Penny Petal was born poor. Her family hardly had anything to eat, but they loved each other. Penny Petal appreciated every thing she got. When she was six, her father walked her around the United Center before the Bulls played the Celtics. She was excited by the crazy fans and feeling in the air. She looked forward to the day that she could see a real game. When she was thirteen, she learned to play the buckets. She was an extremely talented musician, a natural percussionist, and everyone on the block loved the rhythms that poured from her palms. By the time she was twenty-one, Penny was a successful businesswoman. Now she had everything that she had ever dreamed of and she truly loved to share her wealth and happiness with her family who supported her through all of the hard times.

What is the theme of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. The Dogs and the Hides

Some dogs famished with hunger saw a number of cowhides steeping in a river. Not being able to reach them, they agreed to drink up the river, but it happened that they burst themselves with drinking long before they reached the hides.

What is the moral of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your answer relates to the story: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. The Monkey and the Snake

One winter a Monkey found a Snake stiff and frozen with cold. He had compassion on it, and taking it up, placed it in his bosom. The Snake was quickly revived by the warmth, and resuming its natural instincts, bit the monkey, inflicting on him a mortal wound.

What is the moral of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your answer relates to the story: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. The Fir-Tree and the Bramble

A FIR-TREE said boastfully to the Bramble, "You are useful for nothing at all; while I am everywhere used for roofs and houses." The Bramble answered: "You poor creatures, if you would only call to mind the axes and saws which are about to hew you down, you would have reason to wish that you had grown up a Bramble, not a Fir-Tree."

What lesson does the Bramble teach the Fir-Tree? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your answer relates to the story: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7. The Flies and the Honey-Pot

A number of flies were attracted to a jar of honey which had been overturned in a housekeeper's room, and placing their feet in it, ate greedily. Their feet, however, became so smeared with the honey that they could not use their wings, nor release themselves, and were suffocated.

What is the moral of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your answer relates to the story: \_\_\_\_\_