

Theme Scavenger Hunt

Recording Sheet

Read the cards and determine which of the themes below best fits the paragraph. Then, write the title of that card in the correct column below.

Evil wins when good
people stand by and do
nothing.

Do the right thing, even
when it is hard.

Learn from your
mistakes.

Overcoming obstacles
makes you stronger.

The Swimsuit

Yara's mom had been telling her all week that she needed to wash her swimsuit for her upcoming meet. Yara figured she had plenty of time to wash it, so she kept putting it off. When Yara woke up on the day of the swim meet, she realized she still hadn't washed her swimsuit. She ran to the laundry room and stuffed it in the washing machine.

At 9:00, Yara's mom said it was time to leave, but the swimsuit was still washing. Yara started to get anxious. Her coach wouldn't let her swim without it.

When Yara finally made it to the meet, she had already missed the team relay. Yara was so disappointed. Next time she would wash her swimsuit as soon as possible so this didn't happen again!

The Math Test

JC was taking the most important math test of 6th grade. If he didn't get at least a C+ on the test, he wouldn't be able to play football for the rest of the year.

As he was testing, JC noticed that he could see Esme's answers. She was the smartest girl in the class, so he figured her answers were probably right. A lot of JC's answers were different from Esme's. JC was really tempted to change his answers. His teacher wasn't paying any attention to him, so he knew he could get away with it without getting in trouble. He decided to keep his original answers, though.

Later that week, his teacher passed back the tests. JC had gotten a B+ without having to cheat!

The Big Front Teeth

Mia had been made fun of her entire life because of her huge front teeth. She used to stay up at night crying about the name calling and the giggling behind her back. She eventually learned not to let it bother her. Her real friends had never made fun of her buck teeth, and they had helped her to ignore the taunts.

Now, after years of braces, veneers, and lots of orthodontic appointments, Mia's teeth finally looked normal. She loved being able to walk down the hallway without getting laughed at.

One day, Mia saw a group of girls teasing someone about their large ears. Mia walked over and told them to stop. All the teasing she had gotten as a kid had given her the courage to stand up for others.

The Fire at School

The news was all over school. Some freshman boys were planning on starting a fire the next day in hopes of getting out of a math test. It seemed like everybody knew – it was all anybody was talking about.

Christy was shocked. She wondered what she should do to try and stop it, but then she realized that everybody already knew. Surely somebody had already told a teacher or a parent and there would be no fire. Christy decided not to do anything.

The next day, the fire alarm went off during Christy's first class. Everybody rushed outside. While they were waiting, Christy noticed a few kids being put in an ambulance. She couldn't believe that nobody had done anything to stop this from happening!

Spilled Milk

During lunch, Clint accidentally spilled his milk all over the table. The lunch attendant came over and told the entire table that they would have to clean up the spill before they could go to recess.

Rashawn headed to the kitchen for a washcloth and paper towels. When he got back to the table, everybody was gone. Not even Clint had stayed behind to help clean up the spill!

Rashawn was annoyed. If he didn't get out to the basketball court fast enough, it would be too late to join a team. He was tempted to leave the mess where it was and go to recess like the rest of the boys. Instead, he began wiping up the milk. It needed to be cleaned up, even though it wasn't really Rashawn's job.

Forgotten Homework

Mike's parents were disappointed in his report card grades. So when Mike got home from school, his mom made him sit down at the kitchen table and finish all his homework. Mike worked for over an hour making sure he read each question carefully. When he was finished, he left the homework on the kitchen table.

The next morning, Mike was in a hurry and forgot his homework. When he got to class, he was so irritated with himself – he had done all that work for nothing. His teacher wouldn't accept late work.

That day after school, his mom made him finish his homework at the kitchen table again. This time, when he was finished, Mike put his homework in his backpack so he wouldn't forget it in the morning.

Chloe's New Friend

The doorbell rang, and Chloe rushed to answer it. She was excited to introduce her friend Kayla to her mom. When Kayla walked into their house, though, Chloe noticed that her mom stiffened. Then, she walked out of the room without saying anything to the girls.

After Kayla left, Chloe went to talk to her mom. "People like Kayla are NOT allowed in our house," Chloe's mom told her. "You can't be friends with her."

Chloe was stunned. She knew what her mom said was wrong. Kayla was the nicest friend she had ever had. She didn't say anything to her mom, though. Instead, she told Kayla that they couldn't be friends anymore. Kayla was incredibly hurt.

Leaving Honduras

Mateo and his family had recently moved to South Carolina from Honduras. Mateo felt completely lost at school. He didn't know very much English so he was always behind in class, and he had a hard time making friends. It was really tough being uprooted to a new country and having to learn a new language.

Every day, Mateo's English got better and better. He learned that he loved math, because it was the same in both Spanish and English. Eventually, he began to make some new friends.

Although it had been tough, Mateo was glad his family had moved to South Carolina. Now, Mateo knew TWO languages. Plus, Mateo now knew that he would be able to make friends no matter where he lived.

The Broken Arm

During Travis' first baseball practice, Travis tripped and broke his arm. The doctor said he couldn't play baseball for at least 2 months, and he would have to have a cast for 6 weeks.

Travis was devastated. He knew he wouldn't be able to make the first string team if he couldn't practice for 2 months! Since he couldn't play baseball or do anything with his right hand, his coach suggested he do some weight training to build up his leg strength. Travis had always been a slow runner.

For the next two months, Travis worked on building leg muscle. When he finally got to join the team for practice, he was the fastest kid on the team. His coach made him first string shortstop!

The Hungry Dog

Malik was bored. He went outside and started walking around his neighborhood. There was a small, neglected dog at the corner of the street. It looked like it hadn't been fed, so Malik ran home to get it something to eat.

When Malik went back outside, there was another boy at the corner messing with the dog. The boy had picked up the dog by its hair and was spitting on it.

Malik started walking towards the corner to tell the boy to stop, but then he saw who it was. It was Trevor, the quarterback of the football team and the team captain. Malik didn't want to ruin his chances of making the football team, so he went back home instead of confronting Trevor and helping the dog.

Making a New Friend

They had been in Houston for a month now, but Lou still didn't have any friends. So when Amber needed a partner for a science project, Lou jumped on the chance to make a new friend. They worked on the project after school that day and they got along really well. Amber even invited Lou to sit with her at lunch.

During lunch, a girl walked by their table. The girl looked a little funny – her shirt was dirty and her hair clearly needed to be brushed. Amber started teasing this girl, calling her names and giggling at her.

Lou knew that she would probably lose Amber as a friend, but she couldn't let her tease this poor girl without saying anything. She told Amber to stop being so mean, and then joined the other girl for lunch.

Telling Lies

Landon didn't have very many friends at his new school. During lunch, he tried to make friends by telling the guys at his lunch table all sorts of stories that made him look cool. Landon told them that his uncle was best friends with Kanye West, and that his dog had been in a lot of movies, and all sorts of other lies.

The stories didn't help him make friends. Most of the time, the other guys just rolled their eyes at him. Once, one of the guys told him, "Dude, stop making stuff up. Nobody believes you, and it's annoying."

The next semester, Landon got moved to a different lunch table. This time, Landon decided to only tell true stories. He listened to the other guys and asked them questions. Eventually, he made a friend!

Closing the Curtains

Jason was sick to his stomach. One of the meanest 8th graders at his school was right outside his house, picking on a little kid. The 8th grader had thrown the kid's backpack into the mud, and was now pulling his hair. The poor kid was trying not to cry, but Jason could see the tears.

Jason didn't know what to do. His parents weren't home, so he couldn't get them to help. He could go out there himself and try to stop the 8th grader, but Jason was worried about what the 8th grader would do to him. He planned on telling his teacher tomorrow, but that didn't help the little kid now.

The 8th grader began kicking the small boy. Jason closed the curtains so he didn't have to watch.

Hard Work Pays Off

Kenzie had always been jealous of her friend Brittney. Brittney's family had plenty of money, so Brittney always got whatever she wanted. On the other hand, Kenzie was always having to look for jobs around her neighborhood so that she could buy stuff. She had to work way harder than Brittney.

When they got to college, Brittney and Kenzie both got great jobs working at their favorite clothing store. Brittney got fired the first week of work, though. She wasn't used to working so hard.

In contrast, Kenzie got promoted to manager and got a huge raise after only one month at the job. Kenzie knew that not having very much money when she was younger had helped prepare her for this job.

The Cell Phone

All of Nala's friends had a phone, but Nala didn't. She begged and pleaded with her mom, and finally Nala's mom bought her one.

Nala's mom told her not to use the phone until they had bought a case for it, but Nala was too excited. She wanted to show her friends.

While Nala was taking a selfie with her best friend, she accidentally dropped her phone. The screen shattered, and Nala was horrified. Her new phone was already broken.

Nala's mom made her pay \$50.00 to fix the screen. When she got the phone back, she wrapped it in a pair of socks and stored it safely until she had bought a case for it. She wasn't going to risk breaking it again.

The Pizza Money

Marci was at the mall with some friends. After shopping, they headed to the food court for lunch. When Marci was getting pizza, she spotted a \$100.00 bill on the ground. Nobody else was in line, and the cashier had no idea who had dropped the money.

Marci was excited about the \$100.00. She had wanted to buy a pair of shoes, but she didn't because she needed more money. Now she had enough!

As she looked for a table, Marci overheard a conversation. A small boy was crying about losing his birthday money – he had lost a \$100.00 bill!

Marci knew she could pretend she had never heard the conversation, but she also knew she should give back the money. She handed the bill to the boy's mom.