

A detailed illustration of school supplies on a wooden desk. In the top left, there is a green notebook, a silver pencil, and a yellow pencil with a pink eraser. In the top right, a blue spiral notebook is open, showing a page with a drawing of a butterfly, two hearts, and the word "hello" written in cursive. In the bottom right, a white and orange highlighter lies horizontally. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with some yellow pencil shavings.



This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

What is theme?

A **theme** is the central idea that is being explored in a story.





There are many common literary themes that appear in literature of all styles and time periods.

Can you think of examples of stories for each of the following themes?

loyalty

power

greed

friendship

good vs. evil

love

revenge

death

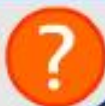


How quickly can you unscramble these
four anagrams of literary themes?

Press **start** to begin.

start

30



Can you think of an example of a story that explores each of the themes listed in the table? Use your keyboard to enter your ideas. Include evidence from the story to support your claim.

Press **start** to begin.

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When identifying the theme of a story, it is important to consider the story's **plot** and **characters**, as well as any repeated images or phrases.

What do the characters want?

What obstacles do they face?

How do the characters change during the story?

Are any images or phrases repeated in the text? Why?



Li
fo

Many stories have multiple themes that relate to a single main theme. As the plot progresses and we learn more about the characters, we begin to understand the main theme.

Li
w

Read this summary of "Little Red Riding Hood" and suggest a theme for each major event in the story. Press on the highlighted text to type your ideas.

Press **start** to begin.

start



In most stories, details of plot, character and setting come together to create one or two main themes.

Use this diagram to connect the details in a story you are studying to a central theme or themes. Add your ideas to the spider diagram by typing your answer into each empty text box.

Press **start** to begin.

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Writing a **summary** of a story is a useful tool when trying to identify and track the story's themes.

A summary is a brief account of the main points of a story or poem. A summary should be written in your own words. It should contain the main points of the story or poem, without unnecessary or minor details.

Most importantly, summaries must be **objective**. That means they should not include any personal opinions. These might change the story's message.



A summary should stick close to the main events of the story. It should not include personal opinions or reactions.

Read these two student summaries of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Discuss which one you think is more successful and why. Then press the **teacher's comments** buttons to read an assessment of each summary.

Press **start** to begin.

start



What is the overall theme of *A Christmas Carol*?

Write your own summary



Write a brief paragraph summarizing one of the following stories. Use your summary to determine the main theme of the story.

Charlotte's Web

Beauty and the Beast

The Lion King

Shrek

Hansel and Gretel

The Hunger Games

Twilight

Horton Hears a Who



Exchange your summary with a partner. Then use the checklist on the next slide to assess your partner's work.



Use this checklist to remind yourself of the rules of writing a successful summary.
Read over a summary that you or your partner has written. Press the boxes to add a check next to each rule that you or your partner has followed.
Press **start** to begin.

start

