



Theme

Are These Themes?

Love

Family

Courage

Persistence

Hope

Kindness

Friendship

Persistence

Theme?

Topic



Theme

~~Love~~ ————— ~~Family~~

~~Courage~~ ————— ~~Persistence~~

~~Hope~~ ————— ~~Kindness~~

~~Friendship~~ ————— ~~Persistence~~

But a **Topic** can be the subject of a theme.

What did the main character learn about this topic?

Or

What did you learn about this topic from reading the story?

A **Topic** can be the subject of a theme.

Love is not something you feel: it is something you do. -- David Wilkerson

Loving someone deeply gives you **courage**.
-- Lao Tzu

No act of **kindness**, no matter how small, is ever wasted. --Aesop

The topic of a theme will be abstract such as *honesty*, *generosity*, and *happiness*, and will not usually be directly stated in the story.

A topic plus what you learned from the story about the topic equals the theme.

**topic + what you learned about the topic
= the theme**

*Abstract: often something you can't touch or hold,
something that doesn't have physical presence, but
you could experience it -- equality, trust, integrity,
teamwork, loyalty*

**Concrete: something that could be touched or held or
that somewhere has physical presence -- tables, stars,
elephants, purple potatoes**

A theme will always be a **complete sentence** with a subject and a verb.

A theme will never be a **question**.

A theme will be a **big idea** that can apply to many, many stories and situations.

A theme is a **message** that could help you in life. **It can apply to the real world.** (Note: There are themes you will not agree with, and will not want to apply to your own life.)