

BOOK TALK:
THEME

WHAT IS?

Main Idea

Definition: Main idea is what the story is mostly about.

- Some example include:
boy meets girl and they fall in love; taking revenge for a wrong; hero's quest

Topic

Definition: a single word or two about the main idea of a story

Kinds of Conflict

Person vs. Person
Person vs. Society
Person vs. Fate
Person vs. Nature
Person vs. Self

WHAT IS THEME?

Definition: Theme is the message conveyed by a text that applies to multiple other texts and is a statement about life.

- It cannot be described in a single word
- It implies a conflict about the main idea

EXAMPLES

| Topic | Main Idea | Theme |
|---------------|---|---|
| Love | A boy meets a girl and they fall in love, but there are obstacles. Person vs. Person Conflict | Love can overcome many obstacles in a boy meets girl story. |
| Justice | A black man is put on trial for a crime in <u>To Kill A Mockingbird</u> . Person vs. Person or Person vs. Society Conflict | Justice isn't always served in a corrupt society, but knowledge about injustice can change the world. |
| Coming of Age | The main character faces negative peer pressure and holds to the values and morals of society. Person vs. Self and/or Person vs. Society | It's difficult to face adversity, but holding to one's truth is the best path. |

ACTIVITY: MAIN IDEA OR THEME?

QUESTIONS

Answer these questions with your team. Take turns writing down the team answers.

1. How are theme and main idea the same and how are they different?
2. How can you tell the difference between main idea and theme?
3. What does the main idea include that theme doesn't?
4. What generalizations can you make about theme?