

Theme: What Is the Lesson?

The theme is the lesson or message of a story. Read each short story and choose its theme.

Example: Topic: **honesty** → Theme: **Being honest is better than hiding a mistake.**

A Choose the Theme

1. Tess wanted to quit piano because the new song was hard. She practiced a little every day. By the end of the month, she played it at the recital without a mistake.

- ☐ Practice helps you get better.
☐ Piano is a fun hobby.
☐ Recitals are long.

2. A squirrel hid nuts all fall while a rabbit napped in the sun. When snow covered the ground, the squirrel had plenty to eat, but the rabbit went hungry.

- ☐ Squirrels are faster than rabbits.
☐ Plan ahead for hard times.
☐ Snow is cold.

3. Omar saw a new student eating lunch alone. He sat down and asked her name. Soon they were laughing, and she was not alone anymore.

- ☐ Lunch is the best part of school.
☐ A small kindness can make a big difference.
☐ New students are shy.

4. Lila told her brother she had fed the fish, but she had forgotten. The fish was fine, but her brother stopped believing her. It took weeks to earn his trust back.

- ☐ Telling the truth builds trust.
☐ Fish need food every day.
☐ Brothers can be bossy.

B Topic or Theme? a topic is one word; a theme is a full lesson

5. "Friendship"

- ☐ topic ☐ theme

6. "True friends help each other."

- ☐ topic ☐ theme

★ Safari Challenge

Think of a story you know well. What lesson does the main character learn? Write it as a theme.

Answer Key: Theme: What Is the Lesson?

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Answers vary. The theme should be a full-sentence lesson, such as "Working together makes hard jobs easier."