

Unit Title: Themes

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Subject Area: Reading

Duration/Length/Number of class periods: 5 class periods

Description: Determining the theme of a story is a crucial skill for young readers. Beginning in 2nd grade, students are already expected to determine the central message, lesson, or moral of the story. Standard 4.1.2.2. states students are expected to “determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text.” This unit will take a holistic approach to teaching and understanding theme, building in learning experiences with multiple entry points.

Established Goals (National, State, Local):

4.1.2.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text.

What Enduring Understandings are desired?

Many skills developed within the classroom go beyond the classroom.

Our answers and views should be grounded in reason.

There are multiple ways to interpret a story depending on one’s point of view.

There is no one right answer for finding the theme.

What Essential Questions will be considered?

How does theme differ from main idea?

Is there only one possible theme to a story?

How can there be more than one possible theme for a story?

What makes a theme seem real/believable?

Do movies, TV shows, and story mode video games also have a theme?

Students will know / be able to:

- Define what a theme is
- Know of common themes in stories, songs, movies, etc.
- Determine a/possible themes of a story
- Using the details in a text, determine a theme
- Compare and contrast the themes of story, determining which is most prevalent
- Modify/Create a story to fit a specific theme

Description	F o r m a t i v e	S u m m a t i v e	I n t r o d u c t o r y A c t i v i t y	L e a r n i n g A c t i v i t y	Student Technology Used	Teacher Technology Used	ISTE Standards
<p>Introductory Theme Lesson Using a picture book of your choice, equip students with several questions to ask to determine a possible theme of a story.</p>			X			Projector	
<p>Theme vs Main Idea Students often get themes and main ideas confused. By discussing what makes up a theme or main idea, as well as providing examples for both, students can be successful in differentiating the two.</p>			X		iPad (Notability)	Projector iPad	
<p>Music Unit Giving students a wide range of entry points is crucial for ensuring greater engagement for students. In this document, there are several songs that can be used to gauge or enhance student learning with determining theme. These songs can be reviewed as a whole class, small groups, or independently.</p>	X			X	iPad Headphone	Projector Doc Cam Speakers	
<p>Multiple Choice Task Card Practice Either independently or in small groups, complete four multiple choice task cards. There is a differentiation piece, allowing these task cards to be useful for students of all skill levels.</p>	X			X	iPad (Optional)	Projector	
<p>Story Creation Students will plan and write a story based on a given or chosen theme.</p> <p><u>Possible applications to use:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Bird Tales - Book Creator - Storybird - Comic Life 	X			X	iPad (Apps listed)	iPad	6a 6b 6d

<p>Summative Assessment Here are two options to measure student learning at the end of the unit</p> <p>1) Task cards - Use Snap Type to have the text read to students</p> <p>2) Short stories</p>		X			iPad (Optional) Notability	Google Forms (optional)	
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<p>Materials, tools and resources: iPad <u>Apps:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notability - Little Bird Tales - Book Creator - Storybird - Comic Life
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<p>Unit Plan Author Brian Allender 4th Grade Teacher Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary</p>

<p>Credits to Others Task cards and short stories: Jennifer Findley</p>
