



# Theme

# What is theme?

- it is the central, underlying, and controlling idea or insight of a work of literature
- the idea the author wishes to convey about the subject - the writer's view of the world or a revelation about human nature

# Theme is not...

- Expressed in a single word (for example, “love” or “prejudice”)
- The same thing as a topic
- The purpose of a text (for example, “to educate readers”)

# How To Determine Theme in 4 Easy Steps

1. Read the entire text.
2. Create a list of topics about the text.
3. Pick one of the topics, and write a sentence about what the author believes about it. Start your sentence with “The author believes that...” or “The story suggests...”.
4. Cross out the sentence starter, either “The author believes that...” or “The story suggests...” and revise the statement as needed.

# Important to note...

- Do not be too vague or make obvious statements that provide no insight about the text. (For example, “family is important” or “racism is bad”)
- Your statement about theme should be about people in **general**, not using details from the story.