

Generate a **THEME** Statement

STEP 1

List multiple lesson topics related to the main character's problem or conflict. Include lessons associated with minor characters, too.

Think of words and phrases to describe...

- Actions/Reactions a character took— right or wrong.
- Decisions/Choices a character made— good or bad.
- Thoughts/Attitudes a character revealed— positive or negative.
- Life skills a character demonstrated— or lacked.
- Personality traits a character revealed— positive or negative.
- Morals or values a character possessed— positive or negative.

 **Character** **Lesson Topic**    

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STEP 2

Stretch out each lesson topic into a sentence explaining how it was portrayed in the story. Identify what the character SPECIFICALLY realized about that lesson.

The author believes that...

Lesson Topic

**Lesson Topic
+
What about it**

STEP 3

Attempt to refine each theme statement.

- Cross off the words *The author believes that...*
- Replace all references to the character, setting, or plot to reference a broader, more universal message relevant to anyone/everyone (e.g., *a person, an individual, in a situation, in times of trouble*, etc.).
- Revise the sentence 2-3 times. (Put the lesson topic at the beginning. Rewrite it with the lesson topic in the middle or at the end. Rearrange the word order. Use a synonym for the lesson topic.)
- Choose 1 or more that are precise to *this story's* messages.

THE MESSAGE THE AUTHOR TEACHES ME

Support with Textual Evidence

STEP 4

Support each theme statement with textual evidence.

- Provide details to describe the character before (the realization) and after.
- Use phrases like *According to the text... The author reveals this when...*
- Include references to character names, specific actions, exact dialogue, etc.

