

Name: _____ English Teacher: _____

Theme and Central Idea Notes

Theme:

-We usually refer to theme when discussing _____ (novels, short stories, poetry, plays...).

-Theme is a _____ that can be applied to _____ people, not just the characters in the text.

Example: "The Lion King"

The theme of the movie- something many people can relate to:

-Everyone has to leave childhood behind in order to face adult responsibilities.

-What is done deceitfully will always be discovered.

Central Idea:

-We usually refer to central idea when discussing _____ (informational texts, articles...).

-Central idea is _____ to the text or story; it probably can't be applied to _____ or _____.

Example: "The Lion King"

The central idea of the movie-specific to the story:

-A young lion cub grows up to defeat his evil uncle and is able to reclaim his kingdom.

-**Central idea** refers to _____

-Central idea is NOT the _____ of the text.

-Central idea can most often be stated in _____.

-Apply it: *Julia's report card reflected poor grades. She felt she would get in trouble, so she hid her report card from her parents. When her parents discovered what her grades were, they grounded her for trying to hide the truth.*

1. What is the **focus** of this excerpt?

2. What is the **central idea** of this excerpt?

Name: _____ English Teacher: _____

Theme:

- Theme is _____, or moral of a story.
- Readers have to make _____ to determine themes in literature because themes are _____.
- In order to determine the theme of a story, readers have to _____. Instead, readers must figure out the _____.
- Theme IS NOT the same as _____.
- Theme IS NOT the same as _____.
- One story can have _____.
- Themes are often _____.
- Common topics for themes (note: the following _____; they are topics/big ideas on which themes are centered):
 - * Courage
 - * Hope
 - * Honesty
 - * Hard work
 - * Love
 - * Acceptance
 - * Kindness
 - * Jealousy
 - * Fears
 - * Being yourself
 - * Doing the right thing

To determine theme...

1. Watch what happens to the _____.
2. Check for an _____ of a theme.
3. Check the _____ for clues.
4. Look at the _____.
5. What are the _____? What is the _____ about those topics?

-Apply it, Practice: *Julia's report card reflected poor grades. She felt she would get in trouble, so she hid her report card from her parents. When her parents discovered what her grades were, they grounded her for trying to hide the truth.*

1. What happens to the main character?
2. What is the main conflict?
3. What are the general topics? What is the message about those topics?
4. What is one theme for the story?