



ELA Virtual Learning

7th Grade ELA

May 18, 2020



7th ELA

Lesson: May 18, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can: 7.RL.1.D Using appropriate text, determine the theme(s) of a text and explain the relationship between the theme(s) and supporting evidence; summarize the text distinct from personal opinions

7.RL.3.D Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, independently and proficiently.



7th Grade ELA

Essential Question:

What is a theme in “Mother and Daughter” by Gary Soto?

Warm Up:

Today we will be reading a story about a mother and a daughter. What are some things you really like about your mom/guardian? What are some things you wish she would stop doing? Copy your lists on a piece of paper or Google doc.

Things I like

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Things I wish she'd stop

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Learn

Today you are going to be reading a story and writing about its theme. Let's review what theme can be.

Theme

The central message

- What the author wants you to learn or know.
- A broad idea about life.
- Usually not stated. Must be inferred.



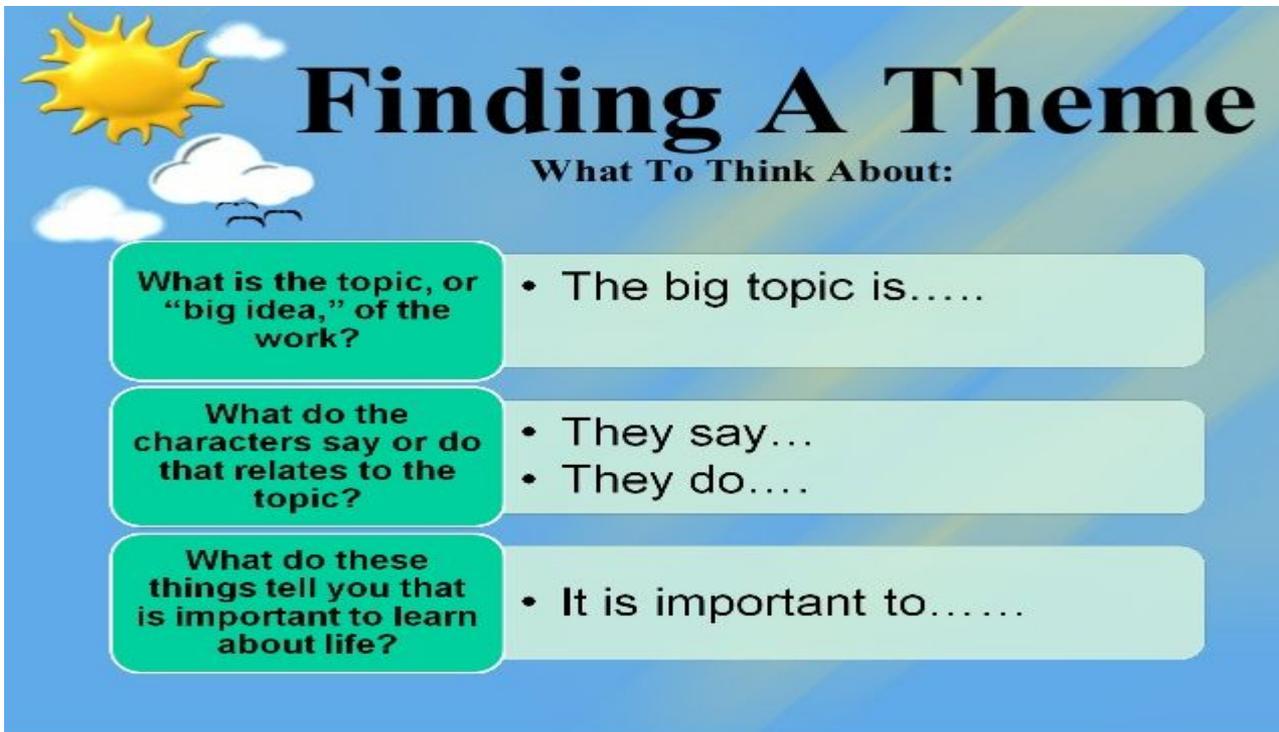
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Definition

- A **theme** is the message that a reader takes away from a story. It's what the writer is trying to say about life.
- It is an idea about people or life.
- There are often **several themes** in a **single story**.

Learn:

How can I figure out what a theme could be? Here are some valuable questions to ask yourself as you read:



Finding A Theme
What To Think About:

- What is the topic, or "big idea," of the work?**
 - The big topic is.....
- What do the characters say or do that relates to the topic?**
 - They say...
 - They do....
- What do these things tell you that is important to learn about life?**
 - It is important to.....

Practice:

Grab a piece of paper to take notes as you read. You will want to take focused notes on theme as you read.

Finding the Theme

Use these questions and keywords tied to theme to help you identify the theme of a story.

Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did you, or what were you supposed to, learn?• What is the story is trying to teach?
Moral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What principles are evident in the story?</i>• <i>What values are being emphasized?</i>• <i>What character traits are encouraged?</i>
Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does this story encourage you to be a better person?• How does this story apply to your life?
Motif	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the overarching concept present in this story?• What are recurring patterns in this story?

Name: _____

Getting to the Heart of _____

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graph TD; A[Who is the main character?] --> B[What does the character learn?]; B --> C[What is the character's problem?]; C --> D[What is the theme of the story?]; D --> E[Does the problem get solved? If so, how or what is the conclusion of the story?];
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Who is the main character?

What does the character learn?

What is the character's problem?

What is the theme of the story?

Does the problem get solved? If so, how or what is the conclusion of the story?

Practice (Slide 3): Read the story

[Click here](#) to read “Mother and Daughter” by Gary Soto.

[Click here](#) to listen to the story.

As you read the story, remember to take notes on theme.

About Gary Soto



- Gary Soto, born April 12, 1952, was raised in Fresno, California.
- Mexican American author and poet.
- As his family had to struggle to find work, he had little time or encouragement in his studies. Hence, he was not a good student.
- Soto notes that in spite of his early academic record, while at high school he found writers such as Ernest Hemingway, and John Steinbeck.
- Soto attended Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, where he earned his BA degree in English in 1974.
- He did graduate work in poetry writing at the University of California, Irvine, where he earned his M.F.A. in 1976.
- He states that he wanted to become a writer in college after discovering writers such as the contemporary poet James Wright.



Use the steps below to generate a theme statement for the story, *Mother and Daughter*

Generate a Theme Statement

Step 1

Generate a list of topics relevant to the story.

- List ideas that are representative of character actions.
- Consider the life skills or personality traits characters demonstrated.
- Recall events/situations and how characters reacted to them.
- Reflect on significant choices characters made.

Step 2

Complete the sentence: *The author believes that...*

- Include "what" lesson is learned and "why" it is important.
- Avoid specific references to details about characters, setting, or plot.
- Utilize general references like *a person, someone, an individual, people, etc.*

Step 3

Cross off the words *The author believes that...*

- Edit the remaining sentence, capitalizing the first word.

with Textual Evidence

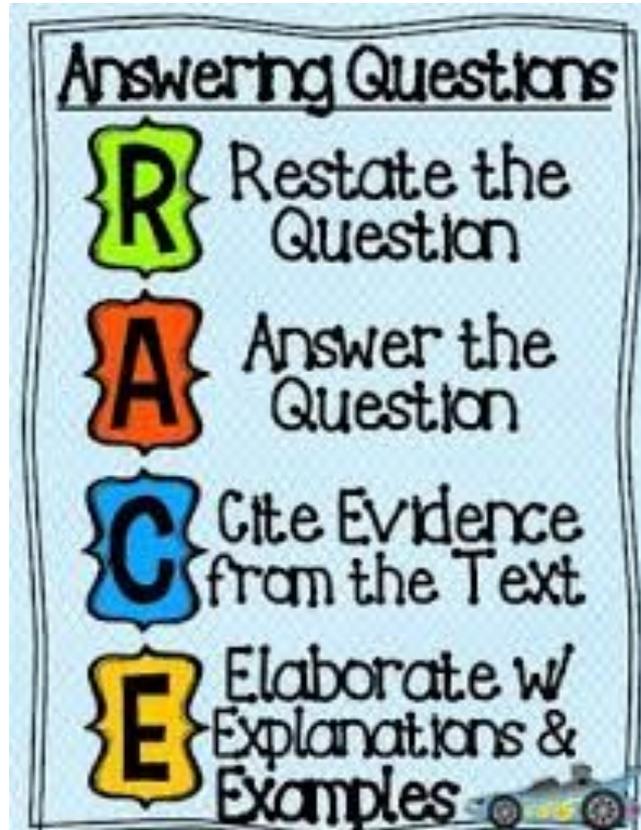
Step 4

Add textual evidence.

- Use phrases like *According to the text... One place the author shows this is...*
- Reference specific characters, events, actions, words, etc. from the text.
- Provide 2-3 different textual details to support the theme statement.

Learn (continued):

- Use the RACE strategy to write your answer to questions.



Practice Answer Key

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answers to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the question?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the article

Sample Proficient Answer:

- 1.) A theme in “Mother and Daughter” by Gary Soto is to be grateful for what you have. Yollie is always wishing for and wanting more than she has. She wants a new dress for the dance. She wants a mother that doesn’t embarrass her. When her mother dyes her dress, she is sure it will turn out awfully - but is pleasantly surprised. Yollie later throws a fit at the dance when her dress is ruined by the rain and leaves the dance without telling anyone why- she could have stayed and enjoyed herself, but she didn’t. She isn’t grateful for the fun she had with her friends or being able to dance with Ernie. It isn’t until the next day that Yollie realizes her reactions to the rain, the dress, etc. that she needs to be more grateful for what she has.
- 2.) “A mother’s love knows no end” is a possible theme in “Mother and Daughter” by Gary Soto. Mrs. Moreno, Yollie’s mother, does so much more for Yollie than Yollie realizes. She watches movies with Yollie, she teases her and plays jokes on her, she does the best she can for her daughter with what she has. Yollie doesn’t realize this - she is always wanting more from her mom (new clothes, new shoes, not embarrass her etc.). It isn’t until the end of the story that Yollie sees that her mother has been saving her money and she is willing to spend it on her daughter rather than herself.

If you would like to learn more:

[Click here](#) to read “The Jacket by Gary Soto

[Click here](#) to listen to “The Jacket” by Gary Soto

