

April 8th

Standard: 8R.1.1.D



Essential Question: *Which details from the text are important to have when determining the theme of a passage?*

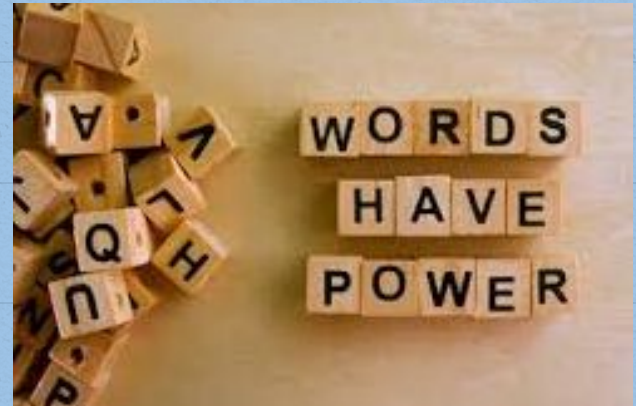
Objective: *Students will determine the theme and supporting information from text.*

Warm up: Words Matter

Language evolves and changes over time, however, one thing that does not change is the power of words.

Watch these funny videos [\(click\) Duh!](#) And [\(click\) Old School Slang](#) to get an idea of how word's meaning will change.

All writers harness the power of words by not knowing only what they mean, but also how to use them. **While watching this short video, take notes about what you believe is most important to remember.** [\(click\) Author's Word Choice](#)



Author's use thoughtful word choice to develop meaning and establish theme in their writing.

LEARN: Identifying Theme^(LINK)

Theme is the **central** message expressed in a story.

- A **stated** theme is expressed directly by the author.
- An **implied** theme is suggested, or state indirectly through what happens to the characters.
- A **universal** theme, or a recurring theme, is a message about life that is expressed regularly in many different cultures and time periods
- The theme is a **sentence or phrase**, it is NOT a word!!!

Authors use *word choice* to help develop their theme.



Learning Continued ...examples of a theme statement.

Example #1: *The children's book, The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss is about loyalty to others and reveals that it is important to stand up for those that can't stand up for themselves.*

Example #2: *In the young adult fiction series the book Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix presents the idea that you should stand up for what you believe in, even if it costs you your life.*



PRACTICE Independent Work

Read the short story The Dinner Party (audio).

Then answer the Multiple choice questions on your paper.

1. Mrs. Wynnes knew that a cobra was in the room because she –

A. saw it in the rafters B. noticed it crawl under the table C. felt it on her foot

2. The colonel believed that, in a crisis, a woman would –

A. always panic B. remain quite calm C. show more control than a man

3. The cobra came out because it was–

A. frightened by the guests B. attracted by the milk C. awakened by the sound of the American counting

4. Which sentence best characterizes Mrs. Wynnes?

A. She was calm and courageous. B. She was easily frightened. C. She was a poor hostess.

5. Which sentence best expresses the theme of the story?

A. Men are more courageous than women B. Women are calmer than men C. Your gender has no impact on how courageous you are.

PRACTICE Independent Work--Key

Carefully read the short story The Dinner Party. Then answer the Multiple choice questions on your paper.

1. **Mrs. Wynnes knew that a cobra was in the room because she –**

A. saw it in the rafters B. noticed it crawl under the table C. felt it on her foot

2. **The colonel believed that, in a crisis, a woman would –**

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5. **Which sentence best expresses the theme of the story?**

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Independent PRACTICE

Use your answer to question number five to answer the following question on your paper. Use **RACE** format.

Restate the question in your answer.

AnsWER the question.

Cite evidence from the text

Explain

What is the theme of “The Dinner Party”? Cite at least two pieces of evidence from the story to support your answer.

(Look at the next slide, or back to slide 4 to help yourself get started)



Example of Independent Work

Example Answer:

The theme of “The Dinner Party” is your gender has no impact on how courageous you are. The story begins with two people arguing about women’s abilities to remain calm in the face of fear. Later when a man believes there may be a cobra in the room, the author states, “His first impulse is to jump back and warn the others, but he knows the commotion would frighten the cobra into striking. He speaks quickly, the tone of his voice so arresting that it sobers everyone.” Then after the cobra appears and leaves the room, the man asks the hostess how she knew there was a cobra in the room. She replies, ““Because it was crawling across my foot.” She had made no movements or screams although she must have been scared.. In both cases, the individuals showed calm in the face of fear. This proves the theme that gender has no impact on how courageous you are.

Follow Up...*expand your thinking.*

The theme of the passage The Dinner Party is courage and breaking (link) stereotypes.

On paper, complete a *quickwrite*; for one of the questions below:

- Think of a time you, or someone you know, were courageous and overcame a stereotype. Was it easy?

Or

- What other stories show courage and overcoming stereotypes?

Additional Resources

For more about identifying the theme of a story, check out these videos. The first one is an introductory video for beginners:



This one is more in-depth, for those seeking more complex information:

