



ELA Virtual Learning

# English II

May 21, 2020



## English II

### Lesson: May 21, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can analyze the impact of theme on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.

# BELL RINGER

Hey, man! What's up?

Hello, hun! I Miss you  
so so so much!

Yo! What you up to?

Last lesson we discussed how mechanics can play a role in an author's overall writing style. But what about general topics, ideas, and themes?

**Imagine you received three text messages from friends and/or family members who just got new phones and numbers. Answer the question below.**

- **Do certain friends or family members like to talk about certain topics? If so, what do they always seem to want to talk about?**
- **Do they have a specific viewpoint or stance on that topic?**

# MINI PROJECT OVERVIEW

Literary forensics is the scientific study of language in order to identify the author of an anonymous/disputed piece of writing. Literary forensics has been applied to settle plagiarism disputes as well as solve brutal crimes!



For this brief mini-project, students will take on the role of literary detective and our assigned the task determining the authorship of five anonymous poems.

In order to determine authorship, literary detectives focus on three main criteria: diction and syntax, themes, and mechanics. Today we will focus on **theme**.

## KEY TERMS

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **theme in writing style**.

**Theme**, as covered in prior lessons, is a term for the topic a writer is discussing in their work as well as their specific viewpoint or stance on that topic.

**Writing style** is a series of techniques and choices a writer tends to make in their writing to form a particular "voice" unique to them.





LEARN

## How does theme impact writing style and authorship?

Writers have specific tendencies in the general topics they like to discuss in their work and most writers over the course of a career, tend to keep the same viewpoint or stance on that topic.

Some writers may constantly discuss love and how it's a terrible, no-good, greek-tragedy of a thing for people to let themselves fall in to.

On the other hand, some writers may discuss love all the time and how it's the most beautiful, wonderful, mind-blowing aspect of human nature we get to experience!



# PRACTICE

Now that we have reviewed theme and its impact on style, let's practice by looking at the same five anonymous poems from yesterday.

Use the information from slides 4-6 to determine whether these five poems are authored by **one, two, or three different writers** based on mechanics. The five poems are linked [here](#).

As you read and evaluate the texts, fill out the chart to the right. Include what general topic(s) the poems discuss as well as the author's overall message about the topic.

Text #	Theme (Topics and Messages from Writer)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	



# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

<b>Text #</b>	<b>Theme</b> (Topics and Messages from Writer)
<b>1</b>	<b>This poem's topic is love and how two people in love are always with each other even when they are physically a part.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>This poem's topic is about loss and how after hearing such tragic news we fall into shock or become numb. This topic is addressed through images of nature.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>This poem's topic is about sight and all the world has to offer. This topic is addressed through images of nature similar to text #2.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>This poem's topic is about love and how love can sometimes be lopsided or unrequited. This topic is addressed through images of fire.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>This poem's topic is love and how fragile it can be. This topic is addressed through images of nature similar to text #1.</b>





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Literary Forensics

- [Forensic Linguistic Profiling & What Your Language Reveals About You | Harry Bradford | TEDxStoke](#)



# REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can analyze the impact of theme on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?  
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

**1 = I still need to work on it**  
**5 = I know I've mastered it!**