



ELA Virtual Learning

# 11th/Identifying Theme in Daedalus and Icarus

April 21, 2020



11th/English III  
Lesson: April 21, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

Analyze how the themes in Daedalus and Icarus develop throughout the text

# Bell Ringer

Have you ever finished a story feeling like you learned something that applies to your life?

The story could be from a book, show, movie, video game, etc.



# Lesson/Activity

As you watch the video about [theme](#) you should be on the lookout for the answers to the following questions:

- How is theme defined?
- What purpose does a theme serve?
- What theme is identified in the clip?
- Are themes usually explicitly stated?

# Lesson/Activity

Answer key to previous slide:

- How is theme defined?
  - ◆ Theme is defined as the central message or idea in the story
- What purpose does a theme serve?
  - ◆ Themes reflect the wider culture and comment on our everyday lives.
- What theme is identified in the clip?
  - ◆ One of the examples of a theme is from the story about the tortoise and the hare. The theme of this story is that patience and determination pay off.
- Are themes usually explicitly stated?
  - ◆ Themes usually require the audience to read between the lines or use inference skills to identify the theme.

# Lesson/Activity

## Key reminders about theme:

- Remember that theme is never identified in a single word. Theme should always be identified as a phrase or sentence
  - For example, the central message of a story isn't love. Love would be the subject of the story.
  - To identify the theme, ask yourself "what is the author saying about this subject?"
- Themes are universally applied
  - The theme of a story can be applied to your own life or the world around us
- Themes require the audience to use inference skills

# Practice

Make a copy and read the story of [Daedalus and Icarus](#).

Annotate the text for evidence that helps you answer the following prompt:

In a written response, identify at least two themes in Daedalus and Icarus and explain how they're developed throughout the text

In your response, much sure you've done the following:

- Answered in complete sentences
- Identified two themes
- Provided textual evidence for each theme to support answer

# Example of a Proficient Answer

(answers will vary)

One of the themes is that younger people should heed the warnings of their elders. In the story, Icarus ignores the warnings of his father as soon as he begins to take flight which ultimately leads to Icarus' death as he flies too high and the wax melts from the heat of the sun. Icarus should have listened to his father as Daedalus understood how to navigate to safely. The dangers of excessive pride, or hubris, is the second theme for the story. Daedalus' pride gets is present in the beginning of the story as he sets out to "stand on his native soil" which leads him to creating the wings for flight. He decrees that no man rules the heavens which prompts him to invent the wings. This desire to prove Minos wrong leads directly to the tragedy that Icarus suffers at the conclusion of the story.



## Additional Resources

To learn more about Daedalus and Icarus, check out this [TED Ed video](#). More background is given to the myth to help the audience fully understand how Daedalus and Icarus ended up trapped in the tower.