

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Possible Answers

# Rudyard Kipling: What's the Theme?

In literature, a **theme** is a central lesson that is revealed through the events in a story. The theme of a story conveys a message or lesson about life that can apply to any person, not just the story's characters. The theme is typically not stated outright, but rather revealed by the story's characters and their actions.

**Directions:** After reading the story, answer the questions to find the theme.

1. What **problem** did the crab face?

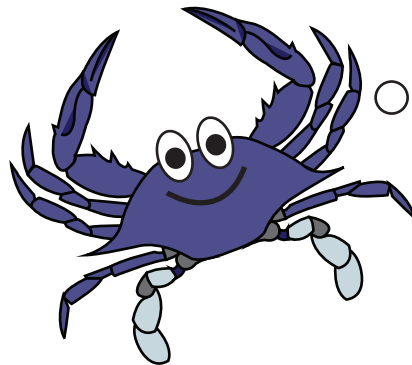
The Eldest Magician threatened to take away his hard shell because he wasn't playing as he should.

2. How did the crab **solve** his problem?

He promised to play according to the magician's rules.

3. What **lesson** did the crab learn when the problem was solved?

He learned that if he didn't follow the rules, he would be punished by the Eldest Magician.



**Remember!** Write your theme as a complete sentence. But do not use character names. The theme should apply to *everyone*.

4. Rewrite the lesson as a general statement that could apply to anyone. This is the **theme** of the story.

People should follow the rules and be respectful of others, or there may be unexpected consequences.

5. Describe a time that you experienced this theme in your own life.

Student answers will vary.