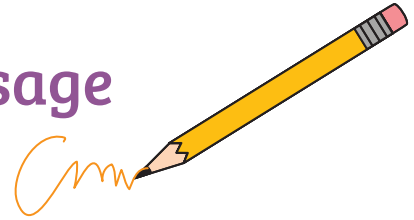


Find the Central Message

Literary Response



Stop & Jot

What Is a Theme?

The **theme** of a story is the moral, message, or lesson of a story.
Example: *Don't give up on your dreams.*
Jot down a note when you notice a theme.

A Meaningful Moment in the Story

Reread that moment.
Jot down details that stand out: sounds, feelings, behaviors.
How does this moment help you understand the theme?

What to Use

Use a sticky note or separate sheet of paper to **Stop & Jot**.



Tip

Strong writers practice close reading strategies.

Pausing while reading to *really* pay attention to important and interesting details helps people write thoughtful reflections about a text!

Directions

- ✓ Read your book or short story for 10–20 minutes.
- ✓ As you read, stop & jot important observations about the theme (or central message).
- ✓ Complete the Reading Response section. Cite evidence from the text to support each response.

Reading Response

How would you describe the problem in this story?

How do the characters react to obstacles?
You may choose one character to write about.

Name _____

Date _____

What does the main character struggle with in this story?

So far, what lesson has the main character learned from this problem?

What is the central theme of the story?

Describe a meaningful moment in the story that shows this theme.

Make a Claim!

State your opinion about one of the characters. Support your opinion with evidence from the text.
