

Choose the Theme

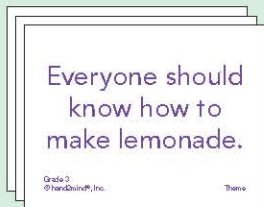
An activity for 2 people



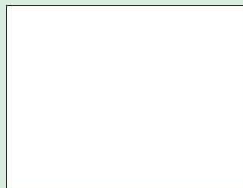
Materials



Sour to Sweet
Text Card



Theme Cards



Drawing Paper

Get Ready To Read

- The **theme** is the main subject or “big idea” that the author wants the reader to know.
- As you read, think about the theme of the story and how it might apply to your own life.

Play

1. Work with a partner. Spread out the Theme Cards in front of you.
2. Read each sentence together.
3. Discuss whether the sentence tells the theme of the story and why or why not. (There may be more than one theme.)
4. Look at the sentence(s) you chose as the theme. Copy one of them on your paper and decorate it to make a colorful poster.



*Think about one of your favorite stories.
Write a paragraph that explains the theme
of that story.*

Skill Practice



2

Read the sentences below. Write a **T** next to sentences which could be themes and a **D** if the sentence is a story detail.

- _____ 1. Finding things is easier when they are put away.
- _____ 2. Jamie can't find her left shoe.
- _____ 3. The rowboat was painted red with blue trim.
- _____ 4. It took all summer, but we kept at it until we finished fixing Grandpa's boat.
- _____ 5. Teams work better when everyone works together.
- _____ 6. Nia loved playing basketball with her dad.
- _____ 7. Nia listened carefully to the coach during practice and practiced every day after school.
- _____ 8. Hard work can help you accomplish what seems impossible.
- _____ 9. Even though Daniel was frightened, he knew he had prepared carefully and was ready.
- _____ 10. Daniel practiced the same song over and over until it was perfect.
- _____ 11. Daniel's fingers seemed heavy, and they moved like he had never seen a piano.

Sour to Sweet



Rosie looked at the playground. The plastic slide had holes in it. The ladder was broken.

All of this from just one storm, Rosie thought. She wiped away a tear. I have nowhere to play with my friends now.

Rosie shuffled her feet. A dark cloud hung over her. Rosie and her aunt turned the corner toward their house. As they did, they walked under a big lemon tree. It was bursting with fruit the color of sunshine.

“Mrs. Fuentes can make gallons of lemonade with these!” Auntie Aubrey said.

A light bulb went on in Rosie’s head. “I could sell lemonade and earn money to fix the playground!”



After the Storm



Bursting with Fruit



Lemonade for Sale

“That’s a great idea, Rosie!” Auntie Aubrey said.

Mrs. Fuentes thought it was a great idea, too. She was happy to give Rosie lemons for the playground.



Money for the Playground

Rosie picked the lemons. She made lemonade. Then, she set up a stand. Soon she had a jar full of money.

“I’ll have enough money in no time,” Rosie said. “This day sure did turn from sour to sweet!”

Theme Detective

An activity for 2–4 people

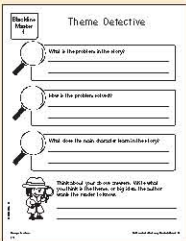
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2

Finding the Theme in a Story

Materials



Sour to Sweet
Text Card



Blackline Master #1
(Theme Detective)

Get Ready To Read

- The **theme** is the main subject or “big idea” that the author wants the reader to know.
- As you read, think about the theme of the story and how it might apply to your own life.

Play

1. After reading the story, each person answers the questions on the *Theme Detective* page.
2. After everyone is finished writing, they will discuss their answers.
3. How are the answers the same? How are they different? Discuss the difference in some of the answers.
4. Discuss how understanding the problem and solution in a story help a reader find the theme.



Do you think the story Sour to Sweet could really happen? Explain why or why not.

Skill Practice

Match each theme to the correct paragraph below.

- A. Persistence pays off in the end.
- B. Everyone is good at something.
- C. A small lie can cause big problems.

_____ 1. Rolando and James were friends. Rolando was good at math. James was good at basketball.

When it was time for PE, Coach Diaz assigned partners to practice free throws. Rolando's first two shots were way off, and James sank both of his.

"You make it look so easy," said Rolando.

"I'll be happy to give you some pointers," said James. "Maybe after school you could give me some help with math."

_____ 2. Lily was crying. She had just embarrassed herself in the talent show. She sang a song, and everyone laughed.

"Why didn't you tell me that I sounded so bad?" she asked Jane. "You're my friend. You're supposed to have my back."

"I should have told you the truth when I heard you practice," Jane said, "but I didn't want to hurt your feelings."

_____ 3. Camille landed on the mat with a thump. Again. The gymnastics meet was on Saturday, and at this rate she thought she'd never be ready.

She called her mom to let her know she was going to practice for another hour.

When the hour was up, Camille was glad she'd put in the extra time. She had finally mastered the back flip on the balance beam. She was exhausted, but she knew that she would do fine at the meet.

Sour to Sweet

Rosie looked at the playground. The plastic slide had holes in it, and its ladder was broken. Caution tape kept people away from the area.

All of this from just one storm, Rosie thought. She wiped a tear from her eye. I have nowhere to play with my friends now.



After the Storm



Bursting with Fruit

Rosie shuffled her feet as she walked home. A heavy cloud of sadness hung over her. Rosie and her aunt turned the corner toward their house. As they did, they walked under a big lemon tree that was bursting with fruit the color of sunshine.

“Mrs. Fuentes can make gallons of lemonade with these!” Auntie Aubrey said with a big smile.

A light bulb went on in Rosie’s head. “I could sell lemonade and earn money to fix the playground!” Rosie burst out.

“That’s a great idea, Rosie!” Auntie Aubrey exclaimed.

Mrs. Fuentes liked the idea, too, and was happy to give Rosie lemons for the playground.

Rosie picked the lemons, made lemonade, and set up a stand. Soon she had a jar full of money.

“I’ll have enough money in no time,” Rosie said. “This day sure did turn from sour to sweet!”



Money for the Playground

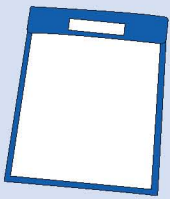
What's the Theme?

An activity for 2–4 people

Materials



Sour to Sweet
Text Card



Clear-Vu Paper
Savers



Dry-Erase Markers

Get Ready To Read

- The **theme** is the main subject or “big idea” that the author wants the reader to know.
- As you read, think about the theme of the story and how it might apply to your own life.

Play

1. Think about the problem Rosie faced, how she felt, and what she did to solve the problem.
2. Each person uses their Paper Savers to write a sentence that states the theme.
3. Compare the themes everyone in the group wrote. Pick the best parts of what everyone wrote to come up with the theme.



Write a short paragraph explaining why an author might not come right out and state the theme of a story.

Skill Practice

★★★
2

Write a new ending to the story “Sour to Sweet.”

Imagine that the storm had ruined the lemon tree and Rosie had to find another way to raise money for the playground. Make sure your ending keeps the same theme of the story.

Sour to Sweet



Rosie looked out over the playground equipment at the park. The plastic slide had holes in it. The ladder to the monkey bars was broken. Thick caution tape wrapped the area like a big bandage.

“All of this from just one storm,” Rosie muttered to herself as she wiped a tear from her eye. “Now where am I going to play with my friends?”

Rosie shuffled her feet as she walked alongside her aunt on their way home. A dark cloud, heavy with sadness, hung over her. As they turned the corner toward their house, they walked under a big lemon tree bursting with fruit the color of sunshine.

“Mrs. Fuentes can make gallons of lemonade with all these lemons!” Auntie Aubrey commented.

When Rosie heard the word “lemonade,” it was as if a light bulb flicked on in her head.

“I could sell lemonade to earn money to fix the playground!” Rosie burst out.

Auntie Aubrey laughed at the sudden change in Rosie’s attitude. “That’s a great idea, Rosie!” she said.

Mrs. Fuentes liked the idea, too, and was more than happy to donate her lemons to such a good cause.

After the lemons were picked, Rosie mixed up her famous lemonade and set up a stand. By the end of the day she had a jar full of money.

“A few more days like this, and I’ll have plenty of money to help fix up the park,” Rosie calculated. “This day sure did turn from sour to sweet!”



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Money to Fix the Playground