What Is the Story Really About?

Theme and Objective Summary | Grade 8 ELA



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Today we will...



WE ARE LEARNING TO

Determine theme or central idea of a text

Analyze how it develops through characters, setting, and plot

Write an objective summary of the text

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

- ✓ I can state the theme in a complete sentence
- ✓ I can explain how characters, setting, and plot develop theme
- ✓ I can summarize with facts only, no opinions

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources



Key words

theme

Author's big message about life, shown through the story

central idea

What a text is mostly about, in one sentence

development

How an idea builds from beginning to middle to end

objective summary

Short retelling with key facts only, no opinions


Photo: sasint · Pixabay

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Topic Is Not Theme

Topic

- One or two words: courage, friendship
- Tells what the text is about
- Can be same in many stories

Theme

- Full-sentence message about life
- Tells what author says about topic
- Grows with characters, setting, plot





Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

What Shapes Theme Most?



Which most reveals the theme in stories you love?

A. A character's choices and change

B. The setting and mood

C. The plot problem and ending

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Theme + Characters, Setting, Plot



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Watch how characters show theme
- Notice setting clues that build mood
- Catch plot moments that change meaning



Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources



Track Theme Like a Detective

Find Theme

- Characters: choices, feelings, change
- Plot: problem, choices, turning point
- Ending: lesson learned
- Setting: place, time, mood
- Repeats: words, symbols, ideas

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

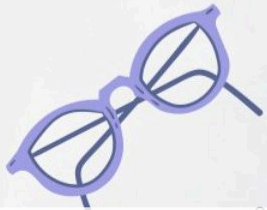
What Is Theme, Really?



▶ 0:00 – 4:28

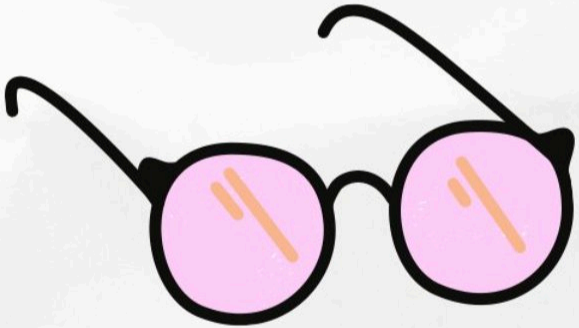
- Catch the theme sentence formula
- Listen for topic vs theme example
- Think how to state that theme as one full sentence about life





Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Your task



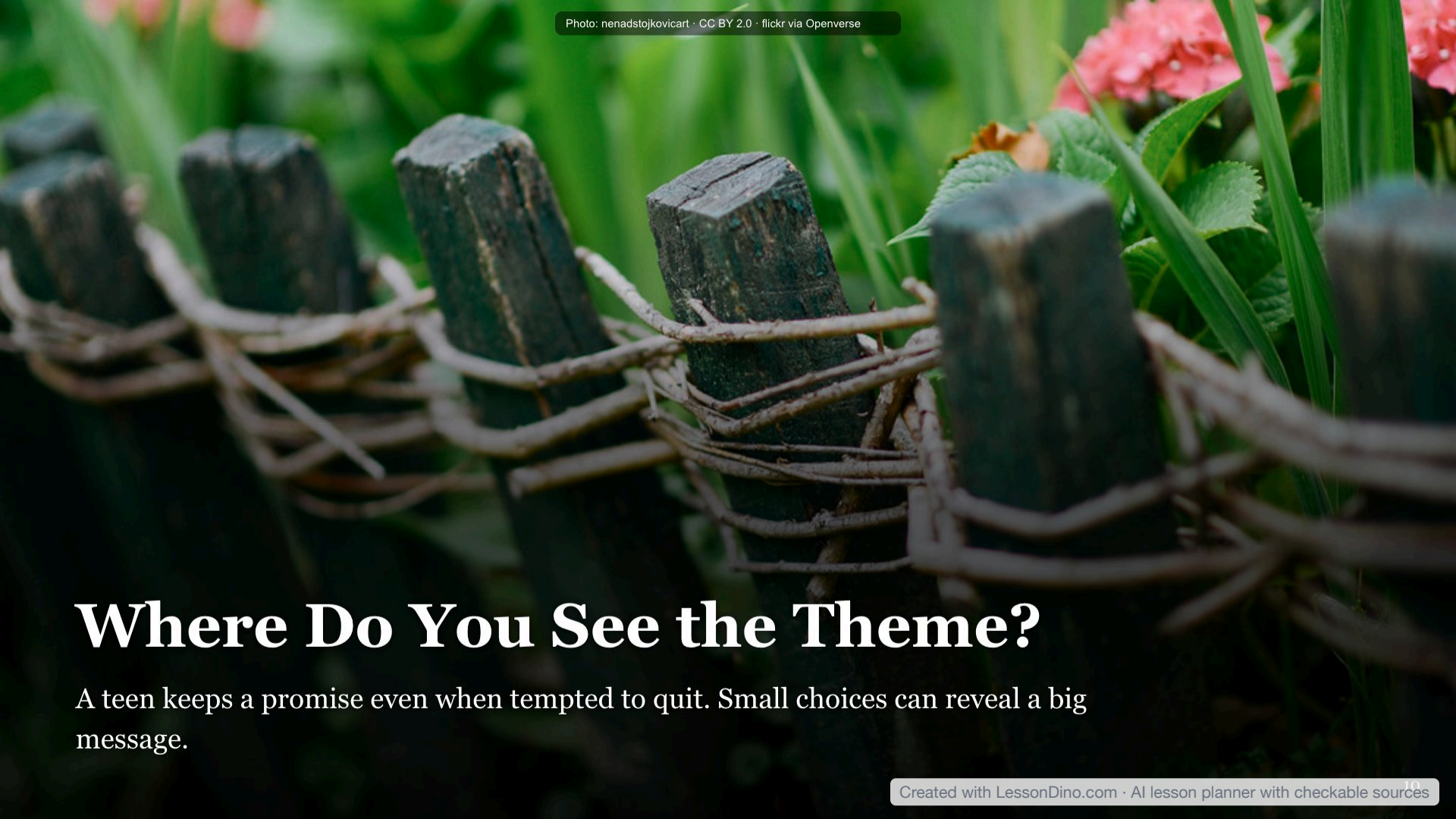
Read the story on this slide with your partner and analyze its theme. A 14-year-old promises to help a neighbor fix a fence on Saturday but is then invited to a big game, and after working in the hot, slow yard the teen stays to finish while the neighbor smiles in thanks.

1. Write theme as one full sentence about life.
2. List how character, setting, and plot show it.
3. Write a 2-sentence objective summary with no opinions.

10 min

In pairs

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources



Where Do You See the Theme?

A teen keeps a promise even when tempted to quit. Small choices can reveal a big message.

Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Think, pair, share

In the fence story where a teen stays to finish fixing a fence instead of going to a game, how did the final choice plus the setting and plot develop the theme from start to end?

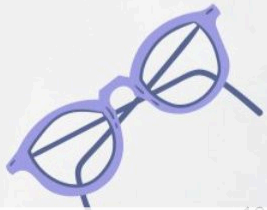


Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources

Quick quiz

1. Is ‘friendship’ a theme or a topic? Why?
2. Name two story parts that develop theme.
3. What makes a summary objective?
4. When does theme develop?





Created with LessonDino.com · AI lesson planner with checkable sources