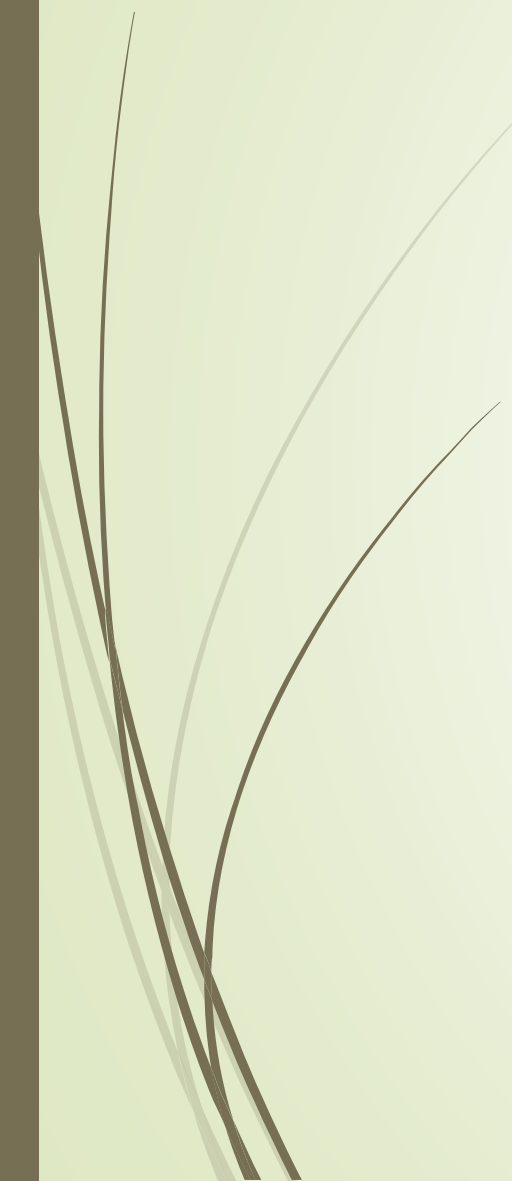




Themes



What is a theme?

- Take out a piece of paper
 - About 1 1/2 minutes to write down everything you can think of that relates to the idea of theme.
 - Answer these questions as you can:
 - 1) What is a theme?
 - 2) what is an example of a theme?
 - 3) Where should you look to find the story's theme?
- 



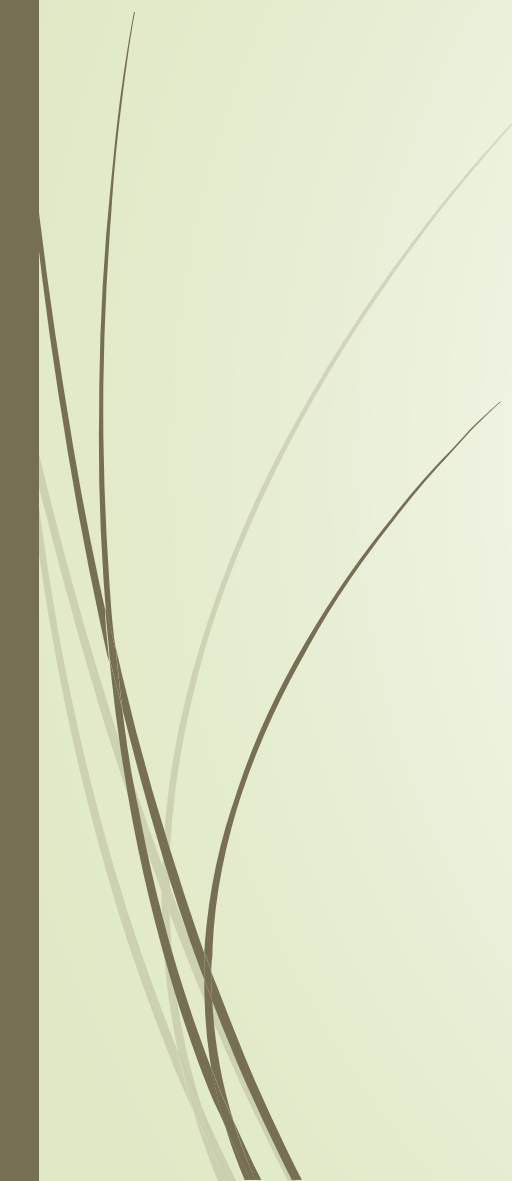
Talk with Tablemates

What similarities did you have? What differences did you have? What examples did you both have? How did you come up with these examples?

- ➡ 1) What is a theme?
- ➡ 2) what is an example of a theme?
- ➡ 3) Where should you look to find the story's theme?
- ➡ 4) Additional notes from table mates



Theme is:

- **Main idea** or an **underlying meaning** of a literary work, which may be stated **directly or indirectly**.
 - **Universal:** broad themes that relate across cultures and countries. For example, love, suffering, courage.
 - Often stated **implicitly**, rather than directly
- 



Where to find the theme:

- **Plot:** What are the main plot elements in the work, including the setting and the characters. What are the most important moments in the story? How does it end? How is the central conflict resolved?
- **Protagonist:** Who is the main character, and what happens to him or her? How does he or she develop as a person over the course of the story?
- **Prominent symbols or images:** Are there any patterns or symbols that are featured prominently in the work—for example, in the title, or recurring important moments in the story—that might mirror some of the main themes?



Examples:

- Tortoise and Hare:
 - Universal theme?
 - Plot and characters?


The Lion and the Mouse

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. Roused from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse.
"Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.





Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the Lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."

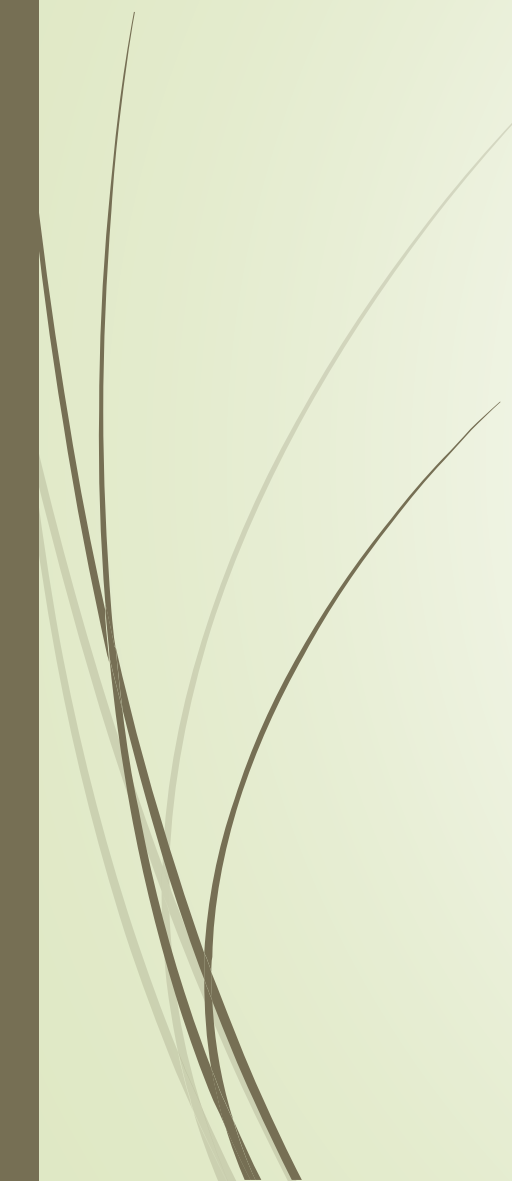


Mouse and the Lion

- What do you think the theme is? Why do you think that?
- What does the character learn? How do they change?



Practice:

- 1) Read story out loud with your table group
 - 2) Discuss possible themes.
 - 3) Come to an agreement, have reasons for your answer.
- 



Practice continued:

-) Designate one person to talk for your group:
 - Say the name of your story and give a quick summary
 - What theme did you identify?
 - How did come to that conclusion



Themes revisited:

- On the back of the same piece of paper, answer:
 - 1) What is a theme?
 - 2) What is an example of a theme?
 - 3) Difference between universal and particular theme?
 - When finished, place your papers in the middle of your table so I can collect them.