



Identifying Themes and Summarizing

Today's Standard

4.RL.2 - Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

Cues	Notes
What is a theme?	A theme is the underlying message or lesson of a story, drama, or poem.
How do you identify a theme?	Identify a theme by looking at key details and events in the text.
What is the main idea?	The main idea is what the text is mostly about.
How do themes and main ideas differ?	Themes are broader and more abstract, while main ideas are specific and concrete.
Examples of themes in literature	Common themes include friendship, bravery, and perseverance.

Summary

Understanding the theme of a text involves analyzing key details and events to uncover the broader message or lesson. This differs from identifying the main idea, which focuses on what the text is mostly about.