



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.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Discussing the moral of a fable or fairy tale; Identifying the main message in a favorite book; Summarizing a story read in class; Analyzing the theme of a poem during a literature circle; Comparing themes across different genres of literature

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to find the theme of a story, play, or poem. The theme is the big idea or lesson that the author wants us to understand.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think the theme is the same as the main idea, but they are different. The main idea is what the story is about, but the theme is the big lesson. Also, some kids think a story can only have one theme, but it can have many.

Quiz Me

- What is a theme?
- How can you find the theme in a story?
- What is the main idea?
- Can a story have more than one theme?
- Give an example of a theme in a story you like.

Help Me

The theme is the big lesson or message in a story. For example, in many fairy tales, the theme might be about being brave or kind. You can find the theme by looking at what happens to the characters and what they learn.