



Identifying Themes in Literature

Today's Standard

6.RL.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Analyzing the theme of a novel or short story in a book club discussion.; Writing a book report that identifies the central idea and key details of the text.; Creating a storyboard that visually represents the theme and key details of a story.; Comparing themes across different texts in a literature class.; Discussing the theme of a movie or TV show and how it is portrayed through specific scenes.

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to find the theme, or main message, of a story and how to summarize it without adding our own opinions.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes kids think the theme is the same as the main idea or the plot of the story, but it's not. The theme is the lesson or message. Also, kids might add their own thoughts when summarizing, but summaries should only include what happened in the story.

Quiz Me

- What is a theme?
- How do you find the theme in a story?
- What should you include in a summary?
- Should you add your own thoughts to a summary?
- Can you tell me the theme of your favorite book?

Help Me

The theme is like the lesson or message of a story. For example, if a story is about a brave dog, the theme might be courage. When you summarize, just tell what happened in the story without adding your own thoughts. You can think about how this lesson, like courage, shows up in movies or TV shows you watch.

