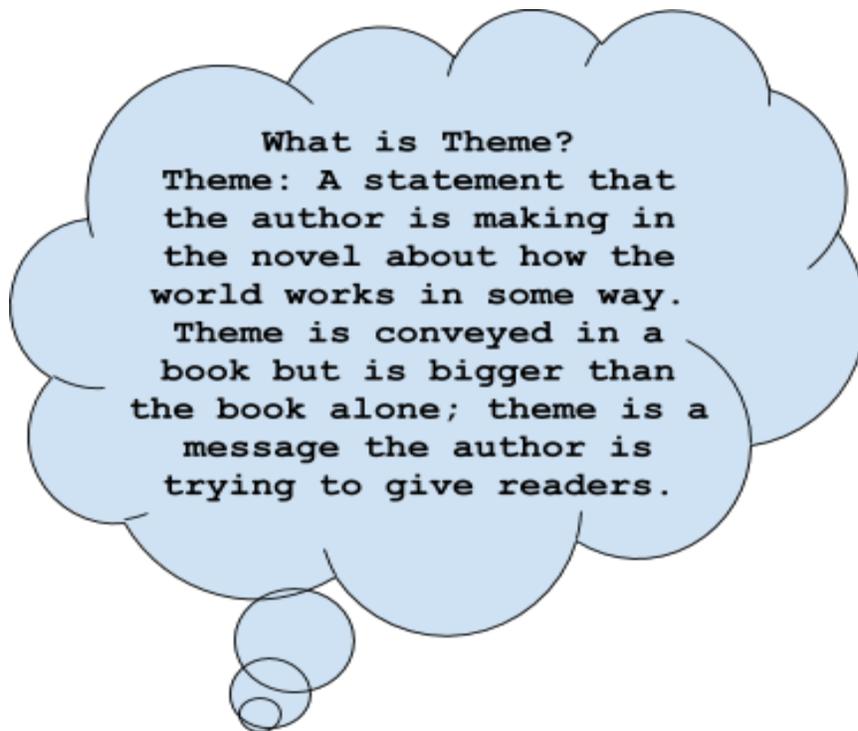


[CLICK HERE](#) for an overview of this week's lesson!

Today is all about finding the theme of a text!

Have you read a book or have seen a movie where the author or filmmaker is trying to convey a message about the world? What was that message?

Answer here:



Theme vs. Central Idea:

DON'T GET IT CONFUSED! [CLICK HERE!](#) FOR A VIDEO EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCES!

<p>Theme: A lesson or moral that you can get from the story but can be applied to everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- NO character names/places/events/dates	<p>Central Idea: What the story/text is about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Usually a one-sentence summary of the WHOLE TEXT (may occasionally be 2 sentences, but not more)- Mentions names, dates, places, or events
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IS IT A THEME OR CENTRAL IDEA?

READ THE TEXT BELOW AND IDENTIFY IF IT IS A THEME OR CENTRAL IDEA:

Max studied really hard for a test, but he failed it anyway. Instead of giving up, he asked his teacher for help studying for his next test. Theme or central idea? Answer here:	Do not judge a book by its cover Theme or central idea? Answer here:
Selfishness can lead to negative consequences. Theme or central idea? Answer here:	Luis decided to go out with his friends instead of celebrate his mom's birthday, but when it was his birthday his whole family ignored him and he was sad. Theme or central idea? Answer here:

Let's practice finding the theme before we apply it to our text! Read the poem below and answer the question about the theme. [CLICK HERE](#) to hear it read aloud.

America

By Claude McKay - 1889-1948

Although she feeds me bread of bitterness,
And sinks into my throat her tiger's tooth,
Stealing my breath of life, I will confess
I love this cultured hell that tests my youth!
Her vigor flows like tides into my blood,
Giving me strength erect against her hate.
Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood.
Yet as a rebel fronts a king in state,
I stand within her walls with not a shred
Of terror, malice, not a word of jeer.
Darkly I gaze into the days ahead,
And see her might and granite wonders there,
Beneath the touch of Time's unerring hand,
Like priceless treasures sinking in the sand.

Claude McKay, who was born in Jamaica in 1889, wrote about social and political concerns from his perspective as a black man in the United States, as well as a variety of subjects ranging from his Jamaican homeland to romantic love.



1. How do the first six lines of the poem work towards developing the theme?
Use two pieces of evidence from the poem to support your response.

Applying theme and central idea to *Thank You M'am*.
Use the [PDF \(CLICK HERE\)](#) document to re-read the short story from last week.
Then follow the steps to find the theme and central idea of the text.

1. What is the **central idea** of Thank You M'am?

STEPS TO FOLLOW TO FIND THE THEME OF THANK YOU M'AM

 **NOTE: YOU CAN ALSO USE THIS METHOD FOR ANY FICTIONAL TEXT** 

Step 1: Determine a conflict in the story: What was the major conflict in *Thank You M'am*?

Note: There may be several conflicts, but look for the biggest one!

Step 2: How was the conflict solved?

Step 3: What lesson did the character learn?

Step 4: Can you back up that lesson with *Text Evidence*? Go back to the text and support your lesson with evidence from the text.

Step 5: Write out the lesson as a complete sentence with NO NAMES, EVENTS, or PLACES. What is a theme in *Thank You M'am*?

Closing thinking questions about *Thank You M'am*. Use the *Thank You M'am* to answer the three questions.

1. How does Roger change throughout the story? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. In your opinion, would most people be as forgiving as Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones in this situation? Why or why not? What does it take to forgive someone? ***There are three questions here, make sure to answer all of them**

3. In your experience, what kind of people and experiences change us for the better? Is punishment or kindness more effective at helping people change? Cite (quote) evidence from this text and use your own experience.