

Determine a Theme or Central Idea

Standard Description

Determine a theme or central idea and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize portions of a text.

Lesson Objectives

1. Understand and identify themes in a text.
2. Use key details to explain the theme.
3. Practice summarizing portions of the text.

Activities

1. Read the provided passage.
2. Discuss as a class: What is the theme? What details support it?
3. Complete the attached worksheet with comprehension and thematic questions.

Reading Passage

Once upon a time, in a small village, a wise old owl sat on a tall tree observing the villagers. Some were kind and helpful, while others were selfish and quarrelsome. Over time, the owl noticed that the kind villagers, who helped each other by sharing food and working together during tough times, were happier and more successful. The selfish villagers, who refused to help and often argued, found themselves isolated and struggling. One day, a fierce storm swept through the village. The kind villagers banded together, rebuilding their homes and ensuring everyone was safe. The selfish villagers, with no one to rely on, struggled alone. The storm continued for days, and only those who worked as a community managed to endure the hardship. The owl watched silently, hooting occasionally to remind the villagers of what it had observed. After the storm, the village elders gathered under the great tree and sought the owl's wisdom. The owl said, 'Those who share and work together thrive. Those who isolate themselves will always find life harder.' From that day forward, the villagers pledged to help one another, remembering the lesson of the storm. The owl continued to watch over the village, silently guiding them toward kindness and cooperation.

Worksheet

1. What is the theme of the story?
2. Identify two key details that support the theme.
3. Summarize the story in three sentences.
4. Have you seen kindness improve a situation? Write about it briefly.