

Universal Theme: What is the
message?

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Activating Prior Knowledge

Story: The Three Little Pigs

- **Summary:** Each pig builds a house. The first two pigs build with straw and sticks, but the third pig builds with bricks.
- **Theme Explanation:** The third pig's hard work and careful planning help him survive the wolf.
- **Discussion Question:** How does hard work help us in our own lives? Can you think of a time when you had to work hard for something?



Activating Prior Knowledge

Story: Little Red Riding Hood

- **Summary:** Little Red Riding Hood meets a wolf in the woods who tricks her into revealing where her grandmother lives.
- **Theme Explanation:** The story teaches the importance of being careful and not trusting strangers.
- **Discussion Question:** Why is it important to be cautious of people we don't know? How can we stay safe?



What is a Universal Theme?



- A universal theme is a central idea or message that applies to people across different cultures and time periods
- It explores common human experiences, emotions, or challenges
- Examples: love, friendship, courage, good vs. evil

Identifying Universal Themes

- Look for recurring ideas or concepts in the story
- Pay attention to the characters' experiences and struggles
- Consider what lessons the story might be teaching
- Ask yourself: "What is this story really about?"

Question: In small groups, discuss a theme you've noticed in "The Odyssey" so far.
What details support your idea?

Universal Themes in The Odyssey

- Perseverance: Odysseus faces many challenges on his journey home
- Loyalty: Odysseus is dedicated to keeping his men safe and alive.
- The consequences of pride: Odysseus' men invaded Athena's temple and the gods became angry at him.

Are these themes relatable?

Connecting to Theme

- Think about different stories or movies that you've watched and what themes they have conveyed to you. Think about how you can create different illustrations to represent a theme.
- You will select a *Theme* poster that you can make a connection to
- Next, you will create a drawing/image that represents the theme as close as possible
- On the back, you will write a paragraph summarizing what that theme means in your own words.

