

Fourth Grade Summer Reading Celebration

Thinking about Themes

When you were younger, your parents may have read you stories that ended with “the moral of this story is...” That moral was a **message** that you could learn from the overall story. For example, from *The Three Little Pigs* we learned about the importance of planning a project well. We know this, because we learned that building a brick house works, while building a straw house is not such a good strategy. You could state that one theme for *The Three Little Pigs* is that good planning can lead to success. But we could also say the theme was about making smart choices.

As you can see, a theme isn’t something that’s written right out in the text; it often appears as a lesson or **message** that the reader figures out by reading between the lines.

A fiction book can have many themes. Why? Because different people can find different meanings in books. You may find a lesson that others don’t see.

In the box below, write some possible themes for *The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davis. We will use these ideas to kick off our Summer Reading discussions.

Possible Themes

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davis

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