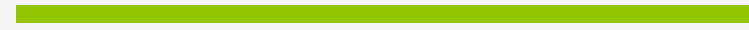




# THEME

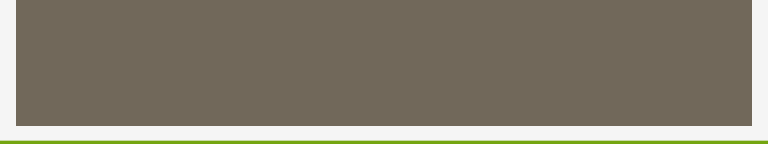
What is it?

How do you figure it out?



# The THEME of *Rikki* IS NOT:

- “The big idea is Rikki is a mongoose.”
- “The main idea of the story is about rikki the mongoose has fainted and there is this kid that sees rikki and starts singing a funeral song”
- “Rikki couldn’t have gone through all these problems with the people in this world, people always hunting to camping in the forest”



**Theme is a moral or lesson  
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apply in real life.**

**Theme is a moral or lesson we take from a story to apply in real life.**

Many kids confuse theme with “topic”

- For example, in *Finding Nemo*, these are some of the “themes” kids have identified but they are really just **topics**:
  - It's about Trust
  - He's Disobedient
  - Love
  - Family
  - Friendship

**THEME** is a moral or lesson we take from the story. Really, these things below are topics. To find the theme, you must infer what the author thinks about a topic. So let's choose one:

○ Risk

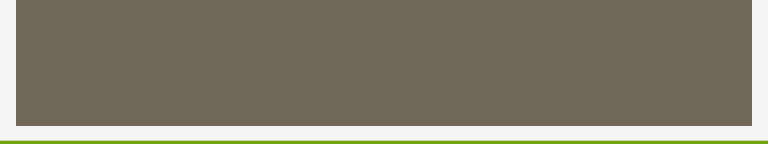
○ **Trust**

○ Disobedience

○ Love

○ Family

○ Friendship



Once you have identified the topic, then you can write a **sentence** that infers the **THEME** (or what the author of the story believes about this topic). You can use a sentence frame like this to help you:

**This author believes that** a person needs to learn to trust themselves and other people.

Now, **cross out the “this author believes that” part**, and revise your statement of THEME into your own sentence.

~~This author believes that~~ a person needs to learn to trust themselves and other people.

Here's what's left:

a person needs to learn to trust themselves and other people

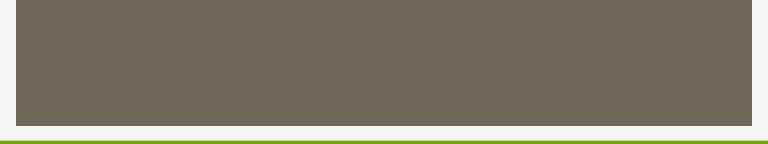
**But, SO WHAT? This has to be a complete sentence that answers the question of what the theme of the story is...**

**SO:** The theme of *Finding Nemo* is that a person needs to learn to trust themselves and others.

# Now let's try this:

- Think back to Thank You, Ma'am
- Here is a list of topics that the story is about. **I'm going to CHOOSE ONE:**
  - \*Honesty\*being thankful
  - \*Lying\*understanding
  - \*Kindness\***Respecting others**
  - \*wanting things you can't have





On my paper, I first  
write a sentence to explain  
the topic I chose, and what  
the author believes about it:

- **The author believes that** respecting others  
is important, especially if they are older  
than you.

Now I cross out the first part, and revise the sentence into my THEME:

~~The author believes that~~ respecting others is important, especially if they are older than you.

Now I add the piece from the question to fully explain my claim:

The theme of *Thank You, Ma'am* is that respecting others is important, especially if they are older than you.

# Your practice:

- I'll show you a list of topics from "7<sup>th</sup> Grade"
- Pick a topic from the list & write a sentence about it beginning with sentence stem "The author believes\_\_\_\_\_."
- Cross out "~~the author believes~~" part and revise.
- What is your theme? (SHARE WITH CLASS)

# Topics from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Pretending you can do something you can't really do
- Trying to look tough/cool
- Lying to people
- Afraid of the first day

PICK **ONE** AND WRITE IT ON YOUR PAPER.

Now- write this stem and finish the sentence about your topic and its importance in real life:

○ **The author of this story believes that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Cross out the stem and revise the sentence about your topic starting with the words, "The theme of this story is..."

- ~~The author of this story believes that~~

\_\_\_\_\_.

FINISH THE CLAIM:

- The theme of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

This is now the first sentence of your paragraph response to the question!

# Sharing THEME sentences out:

- If your name begins with A or J, you will be sharing your theme sentence!!

On the *Rikki Tikki Tavi* assignment... most of you summarized & didn't tell me a **THEME**. So this is your chance to REDO IT!!

- ALL STUDENTS had this assignment returned. You have today to work on it, and it must be redone **or completed by Sunday at 11:59 PM**. NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Don't worry if GOOGLE says it's late- it won't be late unless you turn it in after Monday of next week.



**REVISING YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** Go back to the *Rikki Tikki Tavi* Theme assignment in GC. If you have not identified a theme, use the same steps to do so:

- List topics it's about
- Pick one
- Write “this author believes that\_\_\_\_\_” about the topic.
- Cross out “~~This author believes that~~” and revise into your own sentence.
- Now use this statement as the Main Idea for your paragraph beginning with the intro:

The theme of *Rikki Tikki Tavi* is...

Continue to finish your paragraph with **evidence** and **explanation** or **analysis** to prove this theme is in the story. End with a last sentence that reminds us of the them (the **link**) and why this lesson is important to us in real life (outside of the story).

# CURRENT SAMPLE:

The theme of *Rikki Tikki Tavi* is that it takes courage to do what is needed. Rikki Tikki had chased Nagaina into her hole and as it says in the story, "Very few mongooses, however wise and old they may be, care to follow a cobra into its hole." He risked his life to follow her so that he could protect others from her attacks. Also, when Rikki Tikki was fighting Nag, we read that "...Rikki braced his back against the bulge of the red earthenware to hold down his head. This gave him just one second of purchase, and he made the most of it." This shows that he did things that most others would never think of doing. He uses his skill as a mongoose, but also risks his own life to do this. This evidence shows that it takes courage to what is needed to protect your family and friends.



The **Link** connects back to main idea **AND** tells us how the theme is a lesson about REAL life for all of us.