

## Common Core Standards - Resource Page

The resources below have been created to assist teachers' understanding and to aid instruction of this standard.

<b>College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standard</b>	<b>Standard:</b> RL.4.2 - Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
R.CCR.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.	<p><u>Questions to Focus Learning</u></p> <p>Why is determining the theme of a story important for a reader? How do readers use details to help determine the theme?</p> <p>Identifying the theme of a story helps the reader understand the message the author is trying to communicate. Readers make connections and draw inferences using details from the text to help determine the theme.</p> <p><u>Student Friendly Objectives</u></p> <p><i>Knowledge Targets</i></p> <p>I know the theme is the central idea or underlying message of the text.            I know the theme of a story is woven all the way through a story, drama, or poem.            I know the characters actions, interactions, and motivations all reflect the theme of a story, drama, or poem.            I know that the theme is rarely stated in the text and I must use details from the text to help me infer the theme.            I know stories, dramas, and poems may or may not have more than your one theme.            I know that a summary is a brief statement containing the main points of a text.</p> <p><i>Reasoning Targets</i></p> <p>I can determine the theme of the text using key details to support my thinking.            I can write a summary using details from the text.</p> <p><u>Vocabulary</u></p> <p>drama            inference/infer            summarize/summary            theme</p>

### Teacher Tips

[Expert Analysis of a Main Idea Lesson](#)—Two experts from The Teaching Channel analyze a third grade teacher’s lesson on identifying main idea. This lesson could easily be altered to fit a fourth grade level class.

[Identifying the Theme Through Characters’ Actions](#)—This lesson plans helps students to identify the theme of a text using the characters’ actions. The Name Jar by Sanjook Choi is used as the primary text for this lesson, but this lesson could be used with any text.

[Main Idea Lesson \(Full Lesson\)](#)—Third Grade Teacher Ms. Bannon teaches a lesson on finding the main idea of a text using supporting details. This lesson could easily be revamped for a fourth grade audience.

[Narrative Text Structure](#)—These graphic organizers from The Florida Center for Reading Research website help students to identify the important events in a text in preparation for summarizing the text.

[Summary Step Up](#)—This graphic organizer helps students to summarize a narrative text using prompts.

[Teaching Theme Analysis in Layers](#)—This video shows a middle school lesson on analyzing theme. Although the lesson is for middle school students, the teachers teach theme in layers using fairy tales and build upon their instruction.

[Understanding Literary Theme](#) - This PowerPoint presentation provides an overview of theme in literary texts.

[What Did the Main Character Learn?](#)—This video lesson teaches students how to identify the theme of a text by examining what lesson the character learns in a text. The video explains that a common mistake is thinking that theme is what the book is about.

### Vertical Progression

RL.K.2 - With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.

RL.1.2 - Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

RL.2.2 - Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

RL.3.2 - Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

RL.5.2 - Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

RL.6.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

RL.7.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.8.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.9-10.2 - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

	RL.11-12.2 - Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
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The above information and more can be accessed for free on the [Wiki-Teacher](#) website.

Direct link for this standard: [RL.4.2](#)