

Theme Signal Sort

Decide whether a text states its theme or lets you infer it.

9.RL "The student will use textual evidence to demonstrate comprehension and build knowledge from a variety of grade-level complex literary texts read to include narratives, literary nonfiction, poetry, and drama..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

STATED THEME

A stated theme is directly told in the text. Look for a clear message or lesson about life, people, or choices.

The fable ends, "Careless words can break trust."

IMPLIED THEME

An implied theme is shown through details, actions, conflicts, or images. You infer the message by thinking about what those details suggest.

Each night, Sol records the stars in a notebook.
Years later, she discovers a new comet.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle STATED or IMPLIED for each text; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which words or details helped you decide.

- | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | A memoirist writes, "Listening first prevents many needless conflicts." | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 2. | After losing the election, Niko congratulates the winner and volunteers on her campaign. | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 3. | A poem describes a river cutting through stone, year after year, until it reaches the sea. | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 4. | In a speech, the speaker declares, "Real courage means protecting others when it costs you something." | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 5. | In a play, Ana hides her award so her partner will not feel embarrassed, then shares the credit in public. | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 6. | A novel's narrator says, "No treasure is worth betraying a friend." | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 7. | At the end of an essay, the writer states, "Communities grow stronger when every voice is heard." | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |
| 8. | A traveler ignores a map, gets lost, and later stops to ask a local for directions. | ☐ STATED | ☐ IMPLIED |

2**PROVE IT**

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3**MAKE YOUR OWN**

One of each

Write one new **STATED** theme example and one new **IMPLIED** theme example.

STATED

IMPLIED

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-story that implies a theme without directly stating it. Then name the theme and give two details that support it.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A memoirist writes, "Listening first prevents many needless conflicts."	STATED	The writer directly gives a general message about listening and conflict.
2	After losing the election, Niko congratulates the winner and volunteers on her campaign.	IMPLIED	The theme about maturity or supporting others is shown through Niko's actions.
3	A poem describes a river cutting through stone, year after year, until it reaches the sea.	IMPLIED	The image suggests a message about persistence without directly stating one.
4	In a speech, the speaker declares, "Real courage means protecting others when it costs you something."	STATED	The speaker directly states a message about courage.
5	In a play, Ana hides her award so her partner will not feel embarrassed, then shares the credit in public.	IMPLIED	Ana's choices show a possible message about humility or generosity.
6	A novel's narrator says, "No treasure is worth betraying a friend."	STATED	The narrator directly gives a message about friendship and loyalty.
7	At the end of an essay, the writer states, "Communities grow stronger when every voice is heard."	STATED	The writer clearly states the central message.
8	A traveler ignores a map, gets lost, and later stops to ask a local for directions.	IMPLIED	The events suggest a message about accepting help or learning from mistakes.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STATED:** The narrator says, "Hope can survive even the longest winter."
- **IMPLIED:** On the coldest morning, Jada leaves her only spare gloves beside a shivering child at the bus stop.

Challenge: After Amir misses the bus, he runs to school and arrives late. The next morning, he leaves home ten minutes early. Theme: Mistakes can teach people to prepare better. Details: Amir misses the bus, and he leaves earlier the next day.

Items 1, 4, 6, and 7 are **STATED**. Items 2, 3, 5, and 8 are **IMPLIED**. Accept evidence explanations that identify a direct general message or explain how details require the reader to infer the message.