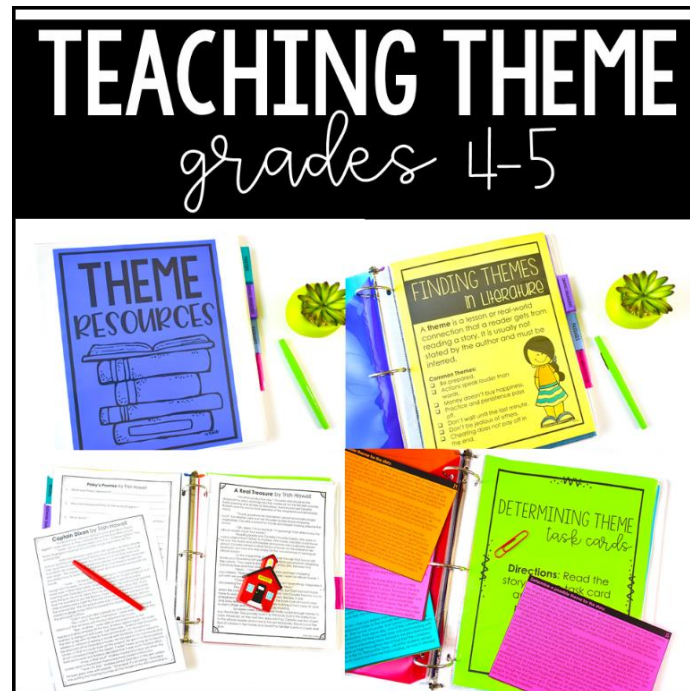


TEACHING THEME

Pre- Requisite Grade Level Skills	<p>To teach theme, make sure you have taught or the students have a working knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story Elements. . . how to identify and describe them• What a summary of a story is --- they don't have to be perfect at writing detailed summaries but they should understand that a summary retells the important story elements as they relate to that specific story
Theme Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What themes are• How themes are different from summaries• How to identify a possible theme of a multi-paragraph story (including more variety and advanced themes other than basic ones like "Never Give Up")• How to prove a theme using relevant details from the story and what different (and advanced) details to look for (dialogue, internal monologue, a character's action or lack of action, a character's motivation, a character response to a challenge, events and outcomes)• How to determine multiple themes that a story may have (and how to prove them both or critique which is better developed using details from both)• The ability to find a common theme that two (or more) stories share• How to compare and contrast how each story demonstrated the common theme (and maybe even critique which one did it better) <p>*If a skill above is not required of your students, these are great skills for enrichment and advancing your students.</p>
If Students Struggle ...	<p>If students struggle with theme, reteach these skills or check these for understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding a given moral at the end of folktale and how it connects to the story• Being able to tell a lesson from a story that <u>very obviously teaches</u> a lesson. . . backing up and reading a few short stories that are obvious will help the students not see a story too literally• Being able to think about how a story connects to their life or their situation. . . if they can't see any type of connection, a theme will probably be difficult for them to generate. Provide direct instruction on the different connections and model it but don't make it a chore. Don't make the students laboriously write about connections they make. Keep it engaging or interesting to make struggling readers want to do it. . . partner talk or conversation, reader's letters if you have time, a class blog, etc.

NEED RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHING THEME?

This is my top recommended resource for everything you need to teach theme! It includes posters, graphic organizers, texts (short texts, long texts, paired texts), and small group activities, including task cards! [Click here or on the image to check it out!](#)



This resource was created by Jennifer Findley. It may be printed and photocopied for single classroom use. It may not be put on the Internet, sold, or distributed in any form. Check out my store for more resources for grades 3-5.



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Thanks!
Jennifer Findley

CREDITS:

