

How is a Theme Supported in the Selection?

RL 7.2

A theme...

- is the central message in a story.
- recurs over and over again.
- can be applied to your own life.

Examples of themes:

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| - Courage | - Friendship | - Trust |
| - Faith | - Loyalty | - Violence |
| - Family | - Success | - Death |

In his sophomore year of high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. When he finally made the varsity squad, Jordan averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

A possible theme of this passage would be **DETERMINATION**.

- Examples of determination occurs over and over again.
- We can apply determination to our own life.

Your turn!

Cassie was having a great time at summer camp. Her counselor was really nice and she had made friends with all the girls in her cabin. One day, a package arrived for Cassie. All the girls in her cabin watched as she opened it. It was a box of homemade chocolate chip cookies. Cassie took one out of the box and just as she was about to take a bite one of the girls asked if she could have one. Then all the girls were asking. Cassie knew that if she shared with the one girl, she would have to share with everyone, so she decided not to share at all. Cassie got to eat all of the cookies herself, but from then on the other girls hardly talked to her at all and no one wanted to be her friend anymore.

What is a possible theme of this passage?

How do I answer a question about a quote supporting the theme?

1. Read the passage.
2. Circle the word “theme” in the question and write “central message” above it.
3. Identify a possible theme.
4. Check the multiple choices for a quote that matches your theme.

If that doesn't work...

Reread the passage and the multiple choices and try again!

Let's try one together.

Which quote from the selection BEST supports the theme?

- a. "Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School"
- b. "the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team"
- c. "Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him"
- d. "went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history"

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. Reread the Michael Jordan passage.
2. Circle the word "theme" in the question and write "central message" above it.
3. Identify a possible theme.
4. Check the multiple choices for a quote that matches your theme.

Your turn!

Which quote from the selection BEST supports the theme?

- a. “Cassie was having a great time at summer camp”
- b. “It was a box of homemade chocolate chip cookies”
- c. “Cassie knew that if she shared with the one girl, she would have to share with everyone”
- d. “she decided not to share at all”

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

1. Reread the summer camp passage.
2. Circle the word “theme” in the question and write “central message” above it.
3. Identify a possible theme.
4. Check the multiple choices for a quote that matches your theme.