

Sheet 1: Identifying Themes

Worked example:

Extract: Leo the lion spent all morning helping the younger animals build their dens. He didn't ask for a reward, he just wanted everyone to be safe and warm. Theme options: (a) Greed, (b) Kindness. Which is the theme?

Answer: (b) Kindness. The extract shows Leo helping others without expecting anything in return.

- **Read this extract: 'Pip the caterpillar worked for hours to finish her book project. Even when the pages tore, she started again until it was perfect.' Which theme fits best?**

Perseverance Laziness

- **Read this extract: 'Nova the owl watched the stars. She realised how small she was compared to the vast, sparkling universe, but felt lucky to be part of it.' Which theme fits best?**

Awe of Nature Fear of the Dark

- **Read this extract: 'Max the monkey took the last banana without asking his friends. Later, he felt lonely and wished he had shared.' Which theme fits best?**

The importance of honesty The importance of sharing

- **Think of a story where someone learns a lesson about being brave. Write one word that describes the theme of that story.**

- **Match the scenario to its likely theme.**

A character admits a mistake to a friend. -> Honesty A character keeps trying a hard maths puzzle. -> Determination

Self-check: Check your answers against the provided key; if you identified the 'big idea' in every extract, you have mastered this skill.

Ready for next: Once you can identify themes, you are ready to move on to Sheet 2, where we will look at how objects in stories can represent those themes (symbolism).