

## **Objectives**

- Review text types
- •Learn why theme is important
- Explore instructional strategies
- •Strategies to support English Learners

### Literary Text: Types (NAEP, 2009)

- Fiction Realistic Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Fantasy/Science Fiction • Traditional Literature (Myth, Legend, Fable, Folktale, Tall Tale )

#### Literary Nonfiction

# BiographyAutobiography

Poetry

## What is theme? Why is it important?

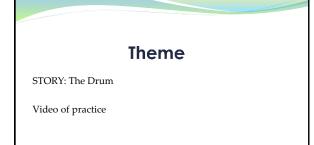
- Theme is the story's message or lesson
- When students determine the story's theme, they display comprehension of the story
- In order to determine theme, students must have prior knowledge of the theme

Theme	Book (year of publication)	Author	Publisher
Perseverance	The Little Engine That Could (1930)	Watty Piper	New York: Platt & Munk
	The Tortoise and the Hare (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	Amazing Grace (1991)	Mary Hoffman	New York: Dial Books
	More Than Anything Else (1995)	Marie Bradby	London: Orchard
	The Little Hero of Holland (1910) in The Children's Book of Virtues (1995, W. J. Bennett, Ed.)	Etta Austin Blais- dell and Mary Frances Blaisdell	New York: Simon & Schuter and other anthologies
	The Crow and the Pitcher (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
Bravery	Ins Sleeps Over (1972)	Bernard Waber	New York: Houghton Mifflin
	Molly the Brave and Me (1990)	Jane O'Connor	New York: Random House
	Thunder Cake (1990)	Patricia Polacco	New York: Philomel Books
	Shella Rae, the Brave (1987)	Kevin Henkes	New York: Greenwillow Books
Honesty	The Boy Who Cried Wolf (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	The Empty Pot (1990)	Demi	New York: H. Holt
Acceptance	A Day's Work (1994)	Eve Bunting	New York: Clarion Books
	Buthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie (2007)	Laura Rankin	New York: Bloomsbury
	Big AJ (1997)	Andrew Clements	New York: Aladdin
	Teammates (1990)	Peter Golenbock	Orlando: Voyager Books
	Angel Child, Dragon Child (1983)	Michelle Maria Surat	New York: Scholastic
	The Boy Who Grew Howers (2005)	Jen Wojtowicz	Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books

Tea	chi	ing Th	eme		
Table 2. Theme Ch	able 2. Theme Chart for Perseverance.				
	Setting	Problem	How did the characte persevere?		
Little Engine The Little Engine That Could	Railroad	Trouble getting up the hill	Never stopped trying to climb the hill		
Tortoise The Tortoise and the Hare	Race	Was racing the hare	Kept racing		
Crow The Crow and the Pitcher	Desert	Needed to get water from the bottom of the pitcher	Kept putting rocks into the pitcher		
Hero Little Hero of Holland	Dike in Holland	Leak in a dike	Kept his finger in the hole in the dike		
Grace Amazing Grace	School	Wanted to perform as Peter Pan in the school play	Persisted and per- formed as Peter Pan		
Booker More Than Anything Else	West Virginia settlement	Could not read	Learned how to read		

## **Strategies**

- Activity handouts and instructions available in RESOURCE LIBRARY
  - 1. Theme Chart to teach ONE THEME (modeled in video)
  - 2. Theme Chart to teach VARIOUS THEMES



# **Stop Here and Practice**

Select a story from A-Z Readers Determine the Theme of the story

## **Supporting English Learners**

When possible, teach theme in the student's original language

- Teach with the student's story
  - Ask the student to tell you a story about a time he/she had to keep trying to learn how to do something (or another theme)
  - Connect the student's story with the story you are reading
- Select a story with a simple plot
- · Make sure the student has knowledge of the theme

Theme	Book (year of publication)	Author	Publisher
Perseverance	The Little Engine That Could (1930)	Watty Piper	New York: Platt & Munk
	The Tortoise and the Hare (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	Amazing Grace (1991)	Mary Hoffman	New York: Dial Books
	More Than Anything Else (1995)	Marie Bradby	London: Orchard
	The Little Hero of Holland (1910) in The Children's Book of Virtues (1995, W. J. Bennett, Ed.)	Etta Austin Blais- dell and Mary Frances Blaisdell	New York: Simon & Schuster and other anthologies
	The Crow and the Pitcher (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
Bravery	Ira Sleeps Over (1972)	Bernard Waber	New York: Houghton Mifflin
	Molly the Brave and Me (1990)	Jane O'Connor	New York: Random House
	Thunder Cake (1990)	Patricia Polacco	New York: Philome Books
	Sheila Rae, the Brave (1987)	Kevin Henkes	New York: Greenwillow Books
Honesty	The Boy Who Cried Wolf (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	The Empty Pot (1990)	Demi	New York: H. Holt
	A Day's Work (1994)	Eve Bunting	New York: Clarion Books
	Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie (2007)	Laura Rankin	New York: Bloomsbury
Acceptance	Big AI (1997)	Andrew Clements	New York: Aladdin
	Teammates (1990)	Peter Golenbock	Orlando: Voyager Books
	Angel Child, Dragon Child (1983)	Michelle Maria Surat	New York: Scholastic
	The Boy Who Grew Flowers (2005)	Jen Wojtowicz	Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books