







Comprehension Module Summary	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The numbered items are individual modules<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Video✓ PowerPoint with Activity Guide✓ Worksheets✓ Articles as appropriate	
Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure of Text<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Story mapping• Text meaning<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Theme3. Characterization	Informational – Non-fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure of Text<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Non-fiction text structure• Text meaning<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Non-fiction – main idea• Non-Fiction Science and Social Studies – Text Features<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. How to find information – table of contents, headings, glossary, index7. How to use information – maps, timelines, flow chart, tables, pictures, close ups
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal Comprehension Approaches<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Building Background Knowledge9. Vocabulary Development	

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

- Biography
- Autobiography

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

Table 1. Book Examples.

Theme	Book (year of publication)	Author	Publisher
Perseverance	<i>The Little Engine That Could</i> (1930)	Willy Pipher	New York: Platt & Munk
	<i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i> (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	<i>Amazing Grace</i> (1991)	Mary Hoffman	New York: Dial Books
	<i>More Than Anything Else</i> (1995)	Maria Bradley	London: Orchard
	<i>The Little Hero of Holland</i> (1910) / <i>The Children's Book of Heroes</i> (1905, W. L. Bennett, Ed.)	Etta Austin Blair-Bell and Mary Francis Blauder	New York: Simon & Schuster and other anthologies
Bravery	<i>The Crow and the Pitcher</i> (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	<i>Joe Shango's Cheer</i> (1922)	Bernard Walter	New York: Houghton Mifflin
	<i>Molly the Brave and Me</i> (1900)	Jane O'Connor	New York: Random House
	<i>Thunder Cake</i> (1990)	Patricia Polacco	New York: Philomel Books
Honesty	<i>Shelby Rae, the Brave</i> (1997)	Kevin Henkes	New York: Greenwillow Books
	<i>The Boy Who Cried Wolf</i> (n.d.)	Aesop	Various anthologies and online
	<i>The Empty Pot</i> (1990) / <i>A Day's Work</i> (1984)	Diana / Lee Baskin	New York: H. Holt / New York: Clarion Books
Acceptance	<i>Butter and the (Not So) Heavy Snow</i> (2007)	Laura Rankin	New York: Bloomsbury
	<i>Big Al</i> (1992)	Andrew Clements	New York: Aladdin Books
	<i>Roommates</i> (1990)	Peter Golenbock	Oxford: Voyager Books
The Boy Who Cried Dragon	<i>Dragon Child, Dragon Child</i> (1983)	Melville Matará Sarat	New York: Scholastic
	<i>The Boy Who Cried Flowers</i> (2005)	Jan Wojtowicz	Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books

Teaching Theme

Table 2. Theme Chart for Perseverance.

Main Character	Setting	Problem	How did the character overcome?
Little Engine <i>The Little Engine That Could</i>	Railroad	Trouble getting up the hill	Never stopped trying to climb the hill
Tortoise <i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i>	Race	Was racing the hare	Kept racing
Crow <i>The Crow and the Pitcher</i>	Desert	Needed to get water from the bottom of the pitcher	Kept putting rocks into the pitcher
Hero <i>Little Hero of Holland</i>	Dike in Holland	Leak in a dike	Kept his finger in the hole in the dike
Grace <i>Amazing Grace</i>	School	Wanted to perform as Peter Pan in the school play	Persisted and performed as Peter Pan
Booker <i>More Than Anything Else</i>	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

Theme

STORY: The Drum
Video of practice

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

Table 1. Book Examples.

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