

**PURPOSE:** The student learns to determine the theme of a story.

### Strategy 1 – Instructions for Using ONE Theme

1. Select a story with a recognizable theme (message or lesson).
2. After reading a story, review the story elements (see story mapping).
3. To complete the chart, fill in the story title and ask the student:
  - a. Who is the main character?
  - b. Where did the story take place (setting)?
  - c. What is the main character’s problem?
  - d. How did the character show (e.g., kindness, bravery, honesty, perseverance)?
4. Add personal stories to the chart about a time you and the student displayed the theme. The goal is for the student to recognize these themes outside of the story.
5. For additional information or as a study group, read the article written by Lord (2014), *Theme Comprehension: Beyond the Details*.

<i>(sample)</i> <b>THEME CHART for ... Kindness</b>				
STORY	Main Character	Setting	Problem	How did the character show kindness?
Kathleen’s Favorite Book	Kathleen	School	Wanted a book that others wanted	She shared the book with her friends
The Drum	The Boy	India	Wanted a drum	Gave items to people in need

<b>THEME CHART for ...</b>				
<b>STORY</b>	<b>Main Character</b>	<b>Setting</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>How did the character show...?</b>