

BMS Language Arts 7

weekly lesson: April 20th-25th

Hello 7th grade students and families! This week's lesson uses what we learned last week about inference and builds it into a more acute skill. We are going to begin to learn about theme and how to determine the theme of a story. Students will need to use their inference skills to do this successfully. Since theme is brand new learning for students, a full set of notes is included this week as well as some guided practice. Please save the notes as you will need them to refer back to as we progress in this unit over the next several weeks. Remember, during distance learning, nothing will be officially graded, but please turn it in to my google classroom or at the school next monday for feedback. The idea here is to use your brains, to maintain and maybe improve your skills even at a distance! If you have any questions or would like more skill building activities, please contact me during my office hours. Enjoy!

Weekly Warm up:

Editing SOCIAL MEDIA GRAMMAR



Correct the spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors in the following social media post.

Do you know the definition of embarassing: It is acidentally walking in to your fourth period class instead of your 2nd and not realising until fifteen minutes after the class starts. I wonder why teachers' tell my parent's I don't pay attention?

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Approx 11 corrections

Office Hours:

(I will be online to answer any questions!)

Mrs. Hatcher:

Mon - Fri 12-2

Email: madalynh@banks.k12.or.us

I can also do video chats with students if needed.

Online Games/Apps/Resources:

1. <https://www.dictionary.com/>
2. <https://pbskids.org/games/vocabulary/>
3. <https://justbuypassay.com/blog/persuasive-essay-topics>

Answers from Last Week's Exercise:

Check your work! How did you do?

So, even though I **loathe** change, I finally took the **plunge** and updated my phone to iOS9. Richard, the IT guy, said it was a **piece** of cake to do and that I could do it **easily**. Well, I did it, and I lost all the memory on my phone!

So, even: A comma is used here to set off an introductory element.

loathe change,: Loathe was misspelled. A comma is used to set off introductory elements.

Plunge: Plunge was misspelled.

Richard, the IT guy, : This example requires commas because it is an appositive. An appositive is a noun that renames another noun right beside it. An appositive must be set off by commas on either side.

piece: Piece was misspelled.

easily: The adverb *easily* should be used here as it is describing a verb (to do).

Well, I did it, and I: The first comma sets off introductory elements. The second comma is used to separate two complete sentences with a conjunction (and).

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Inference Practice exercises Answers:

#1: Where am I? = Surprise birthday party

Evidence: He is hiding, Someone is telling others to be quiet, There are presents and a cake, etc.

#2: Where am I? = Hair salon

Evidence: He has an appointment, smells like chemicals, there is a blow dryer, someone has a towel on her head, etc..

New Learning: See the attached lesson and practice on Theme. Read through the notes and complete the practice assignment. There will be more practice with theme next week as well.

Theme

The Search for Meaning

Theme is NOT:

1. Topic
2. Genre
3. Outcome of the story
4. Main idea

Theme is something greater than just the story

What is a Theme?

Theme: Life lesson, meaning, **moral**, or message about life or human nature that is communicated by a literary work.

In other words...

Theme is what the story teaches readers.

Themes

A **theme** is not a word, it is a sentence. You don't have to agree with the theme to identify it.

Examples

Money can't buy happiness.

Don't judge people based on the surface.

It is better to die free than live under tyranny.

What is the **theme**?

Jenny Puchovier was so excited. She had a pack of Starburst in her lunch and she had been looking forward to eating them all morning. Lunch finally came and Jenny sat down to eat her Starbursts when her *friend* Yudy sat next to her. “Let me get the pink ones,” asked Yudy. Jenny liked the pink ones best, but she thought Yudy was funny and Jenny wanted Yudy to like her, so Jenny gave Yudy all of her pink Starbursts. Before Jenny was done giving Yudy the pink ones, Carrie sat on the other side of Jenny. “Let me get the red and the orange ones, Jenny. Remember when I gave you that Snickers?” Jenny didn’t remember that, though she did remember when Carrie ate a whole Snickers in front of her, but Jenny thought Carrie was cool, so she gave her the red and the orange Starbursts. Now that she only had the yellow ones, Jenny wasn’t so excited about eating starbursts anymore.

Step 1: List the topics

(think deeper and more general - not “candy” or “Lunch”)

1. Friendship
2. Sharing
3. Fairness

Step 2: Write the author’s belief statement

1. The author of the story believes that

_____ You can’t buy friends _____

2. The author of the story believes that

_____ You have to take care of yourself

Step 3: Create a Theme Statement

Cross out “The Author Believes that..” and what you are left with is the theme statement!

Example **Answers**

You can't buy friends.

You have to take care of yourself.

Not everybody is your friend.

Identifying **Themes**

Themes are not explicit (clearly stated).

Themes are implied.

Themes are bigger than the story.



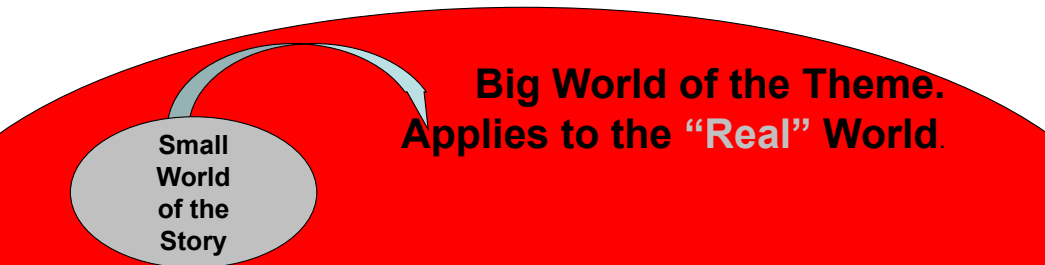
Themes are about the **big picture**.

Not "Yellow Starbursts taste bad"

Not "Yudy and Carrie are bad friends."

Think **BIGGER**.

Find "Real" World advice.



Review

1. Theme is what we can learn from a story.
2. Themes must be inferred.
3. Themes are about the **BIG** world.

Now it is time to practice this on your own! I have included an example and one exercise for you to complete on your own!

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Once there was a mean little boy who lived in a small village. This mean little boy loved to mess with people, so one day he ran up to a sheep herder and shouted, “WOLF! WOLF! A wolf is attacking the town!” The sheep herder grabbed his staff and ran to defend the town, but realized he had been fooled when the boy started pointing and laughing at him. “Ha ha! I made you jump,” said the boy. Then the boy ran up to a farmer and shouted, “WOLF! WOLF! A wolf is attacking the town!” The farmer grabbed his pitchfork and ran to defend the town, but when the boy started pointing and laughing at him, he realized he had been tricked. As the boy went back to his family’s farm laughing about the funny trick he played, he saw a real wolf in his father’s chicken coop. As the wolf ate all of his father’s chickens, the boy screamed over and over again, “WOLF! WOLF! Please help us!” But nobody came to help him.

Find the Theme of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” (Example)

1. Read the story “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”
2. Complete the following steps to find the theme

List the topics addressed in this story (list at least 3)	Write an author’s belief statement (write two)	Pick ONE of your belief statements and find TWO pieces of evidence to support your thoughts on the theme
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: right;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Help 2. Lies 3. Practical Jokes </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; color: #add8e6;">➔</div> </div>	<p>The author of the story believes that... ___ You should not ask for help unless you really need it. _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>The author of the story believes that... _____ You should not play jokes on the people around you.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____”...but realized he had been fooled when the boy started pointing and laughing at him.”___ - shows how the lie affected the sheep herder - he had been “fooled”_(people are not usually happy when they feel that way)_____ 2. _____”he saw a real wolf in his father’s chicken coop... but nobody came to help him.” - this shows the consequences of his joke - nobody took him seriously. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Based on the above, what is the theme of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”?

_____ You should not ask for help unless you really need it. _____

The Artist

Angie loved to draw. She made colorful designs of people's names with bright hearts & flowers, but she lost her own markers, so she borrowed her teacher's. The school day was ending, but Angie wanted to keep coloring, so she took the teacher's markers home and lost them in her messy room. She came back to school the next day and wanted to color again, so she asked the teacher for more markers. The teacher replied, "Sure, Angie, but this is my last pack." Angie said she would be careful, but by the end of the day the markers were scattered all over the floor and the custodian swept them up and disposed of them. When Angie came in the next day, she asked the teacher for more markers, but she was disappointed to find that there weren't any more. "I don't know where all of my markers went," said the teacher, "but I don't have them." Angie had to draw her pictures with drab pencils.

Find the Theme of “The Artist”

1. Read the passage “The Artist”
2. Complete the following steps to find the theme

List the topics addressed in this story (list at least 3)	Write an author’s belief statement (write two)	Pick ONE of your belief statements and find TWO pieces of evidence to support your thoughts on the theme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 	<p>The author of “The Artist” believes that...</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>The author of “The Artist” believes that...</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ 2. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Based on the above, what is the theme of “The Artist”?
