

Theme in Short Fiction

Grade 7 English Substitute Teacher Packet

Overview for Substitute

Students will identify theme in a short passage, cite evidence, and write a concise explanation. The lesson is designed to run without prior classroom context.

Materials

- Printed student directions and passage
- Pencils or pens
- Timer or classroom clock

Minute-by-Minute Agenda

0-5 min	Welcome students, take attendance, and distribute handouts.
5-12 min	Read the student directions aloud and review what a theme is.
12-28 min	Students read the passage and annotate evidence.
28-40 min	Students answer the theme questions independently.
40-48 min	Students complete the exit ticket.
48-50 min	Collect work and leave notes for the returning teacher.

Student Directions

Read the passage once for the story. Read it a second time to underline details that reveal what the main character learns. Then answer each question in complete sentences.

Main Activity

Passage Summary: Maya wants to rush through a group project so she can finish early. After her first model collapses, she asks her partner for feedback and realizes their slower plan was stronger.

1. What is one possible theme of the passage? _____
2. Cite one detail that supports the theme.

3. Explain how the detail supports the theme.

Early Finisher Option

Write a new ending where Maya demonstrates the lesson she learned. Include at least three sentences.

Exit Ticket

- 1. A theme is best described as: _____
- 2. One sentence explaining today’s theme:

Notes for Returning Teacher

Class completed the activity?	_____
Students who may need follow-up	_____
Questions or concerns	_____