

Warm-Up

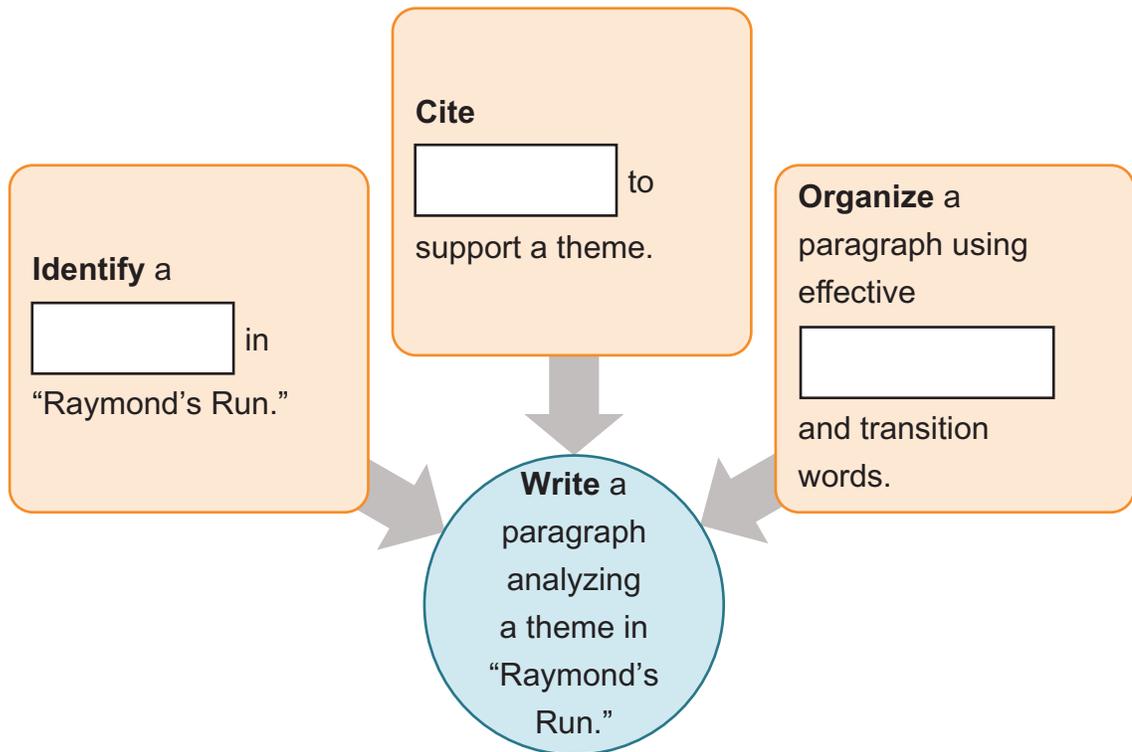
Writing about Theme in Fiction and Citing Evidence



Lesson Question



Lesson Goals



Writing about Theme in Fiction and
Citing EvidenceW
2K**Words to Know**

Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may also use the glossary to help you.

interpret	to explain based on personal <input type="text"/>
support	to show why something is <input type="text"/>
theme	a message a text conveys about a <input type="text"/>
evidence	<input type="text"/> that something is true or accurate
transition	<input type="text"/> from one thing or form to another

Instruction

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Theme

Theme is a a text conveys about a topic.

Theme is:

- expressed as a general statement about life.
- usually stated .
- stated in a .

Topic: Friendship

Interpretation of theme: Loyalty is an important part of friendship.

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Theme in “Raymond’s Run”

Underline the details in the passage that are important to determining the passage’s theme.

The big kids call me Mercury ’cause I’m the swiftest thing in the neighborhood. . . . So as far as everyone’s concerned, I’m the fastest and that goes for Gretchen, too, who has put out the tale that she is going to win the first-place medal this year. Ridiculous. In the second place, she’s got short legs. In the third place, she’s got freckles. In the first place, no one can beat me and that’s all there is to it.

—“Raymond’s Run,”
by Toni Cade Bambara

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Identifying Another Theme in “Raymond’s Run”

Underline the details in the passage that are important to determining the passage’s theme.

I was once a strawberry in a Hansel and Gretel pageant when I was in nursery school and didn’t have no better sense than to dance on tiptoe with my arms in a circle over my head doing umbrella steps and being a perfect fool just so my mother and father could come dressed up and clap. You’d think they’d know better than to encourage that kind of nonsense. I am not a strawberry. I do not dance on my toes. I run. That is what I am all about.

–“Raymond’s Run,”
by Toni Cade Bambara

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Writing with Text Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is or accurate.

Evidence **supports** why your is accurate.

Underline the evidence that supports the theme of the passage.

And I look over at Gretchen. . . . And I smile. ’Cause she’s good. . . . She obviously is serious about running, as any fool can see. And she nods to congratulate me and then she smiles. And I smile. We stand there with this big smile of respect between us. It’s about as real a smile as girls can do for each other, considering we don’t practice real smiling every day, you know, ’cause maybe we too busy being flowers or fairies or strawberries instead of something honest and worthy of respect . . . you know . . . like being people.

–“Raymond’s Run,”
by Toni Cade Bambara

Theme: Strong girls need friends.

Instruction

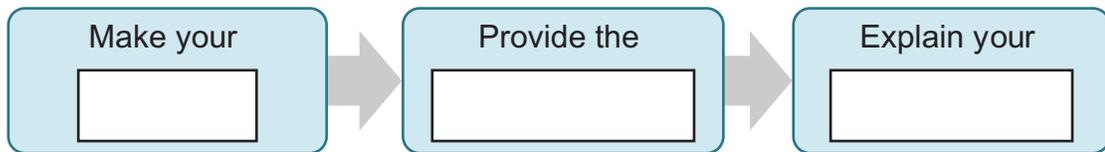
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Connecting Evidence to Theme

A helpful way to connect evidence to the theme it supports is the strategy.



- One theme in the story is: Children have to form their identity separate from their parents.
- Squeaky says, “I’ll high-prance down 34th Street like a rodeo pony to keep my knees strong even if it does get my mother uptight so that she walks ahead like she’s not with me.”
- This quotation shows that Squeaky’s mother doesn’t like it when Squeaky acts different from other girls. However, Squeaky feels she has to be who she is.

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Transition Words

Transition means to change from one idea to another.

Transition words:

- connect different parts of a text.
 - Ex: earlier
- show between ideas.
 - Ex: because
- help create flow.
 - Ex: therefore

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Transition Words in Writing

Underline the transition words in the passage.

One theme in the story is: Children have to form their identity separate from their parents. For example, Squeaky says, “I’ll high-prance down 34th Street like a rodeo pony to keep my knees strong even if it does get my mother uptight so that she walks ahead like she’s not with me.” This quotation shows that Squeaky’s mother doesn’t like it when Squeaky acts different from other girls. However, Squeaky feels she has to be who she is.

Summary

Writing about Theme in Fiction and Citing Evidence



Lesson Question

How do you use text evidence to support an interpretation of theme in a story?



Answer

Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.