

*Prose: Fiction*

What is the Message/Theme ?

Hint: it's not the plot.

*Every piece of writing has a Main Idea. This is part of the Plot.*

Have a look at this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dw!GOfWRKpw>

The Plot - What happens in this video (the story)?

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The main Idea - What does the publisher learn from Esop, specifically?

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## Now, for Message and Theme

*A Message or Theme is what the story or central idea (what happens) conveys to the reader.*

*The theme is a universal concept: Conflict, Faith, Love vs hate, Reluctant Greatness.*

*The message is what the author is saying about this concept: Conflict in a family hurts the children, Love can overcome hate, Sometimes Greatness chooses you.*

*Think of it as a lesson you can use in your own life.*

*The author often won't say what the theme or message is; they will suggest it through the character, the decisions the character makes, the setting, the action.*

*It is not the specific story you are reading.*

*It is up to you to INFER the message and theme(s).*

*And so, back to Esop...*

Now, go back and watch the video again: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwIGOfWRKpw>

The theme (or message) of this video is:

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This can be applied to other situations, for example:

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*Note: Good writing has  
more than one theme.*

## *From a Writer's Perspective:*

Watch this discussion of theme:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/hass-storytelling/storytelling-pixar-in-a-box/ah-piab-story-structure/v/video2b-fine>

After you've watched it:

Note down all the points you can remember.

Now go back and watch again, making notes as you watch and listen.



*To clarify: here is an example:*

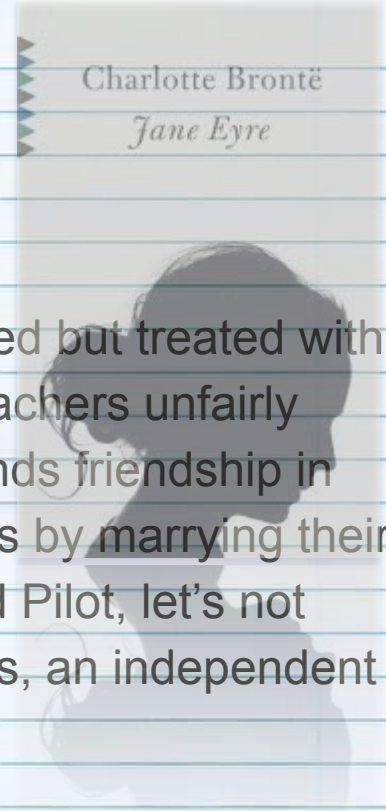
Text: Jane Eyre:

Main Idea: Jane eventually finds the love of a family.

Textual Evidence: Jane is an orphan and has been not only unloved but treated with cruelty by those charged with her care. Her aunt abuses her; her teachers unfairly punish her. She finds a friend in Helen, but Helen dies. Later, she finds friendship in the Rivers's sisters but cannot bring herself to make them her sisters by marrying their brother whom she does not love. With Mr Rochester and Adele (and Pilot, let's not forget) she finally comes to create her own family. The choice is hers, an independent one.

Theme: Love, Family, and Independence

Message: It is possible, even after the worst kind of disappointment, to find a family of one's on who will accept you.



## The Last Book you read

Text: Jane Eyre:

Main Idea:

Textual Evidence:

Theme:

Message:



## The Last Film you watched

Text: Jane Eyre:

Main Idea:

Textual Evidence:

Theme:

Message:

## *Follow-on work*

Create an infographic for the novel/film and its theme:

<https://www.canva.com>

<https://venngage.com/>