

The Pearl

Literature Focus: Identifying Theme

Theme is the overall message or lesson that an author wants the reader to take away from a text. Many factors influence theme, including characters, setting, and plot. Themes are meant to be generalized statements and should be written in the following format without character names, places, or specific details.

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name _____ Period _____

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Directions: Now, using your summary, generate three theme statements a reader should take from the text. Be sure not to include any specific names or places, just generalized lessons learned. Next, identify at least three specific details, events, or situations from the text that led you to each theme statement.

Theme Statement #1:

What details, events, or situations led you to this theme statement?

1.	2.	3.
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Theme Statement #2:

What details, events, or situations led you to this theme statement?

1.	2.	3.
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Theme Statement #3:

What details, events, or situations led you to this theme statement?

1.	2.	3.
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