

Grade 6 Lesson on Theme

CCS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

EP.1 Support analyses of a range of grade-level complex texts with evidence.

The teacher tells the students that a character in the text wants to share what he or she has learned as a result of his or her experiences through the course of the story. The character has decided to send a message in a bottle or some other appropriate container. Each student decorates a container with symbols and scenery and/or quotes appropriate to the novel and its theme. The students write a letter from the character's point of view. This letter should express the main character's feelings about the life lessons he or she has learned. At the beginning of the letter, state the theme they think the text conveyed. In the body of the letter, have students incorporate evidence that support their ideas. The teacher tells the students the bottle they create will be given to a student in another class who will evaluate if they had enough evidence of the stated theme.

Adapted from Bunya, A. (2011). Finding the message: Grasping the themes in literature. Retrieved from http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top_teaching/2011/02/helping-students-grasp-themes-in-literature