Comprehension Passages

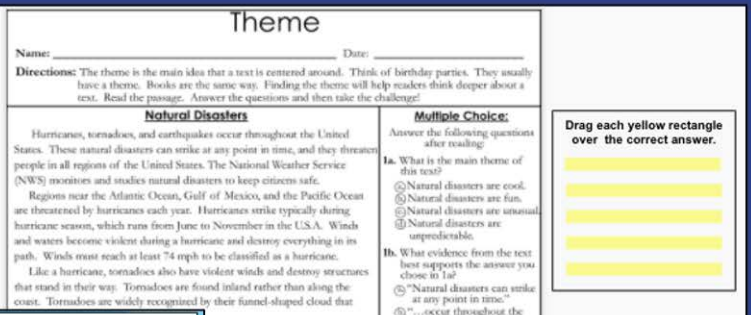
Out of this World LITERACY

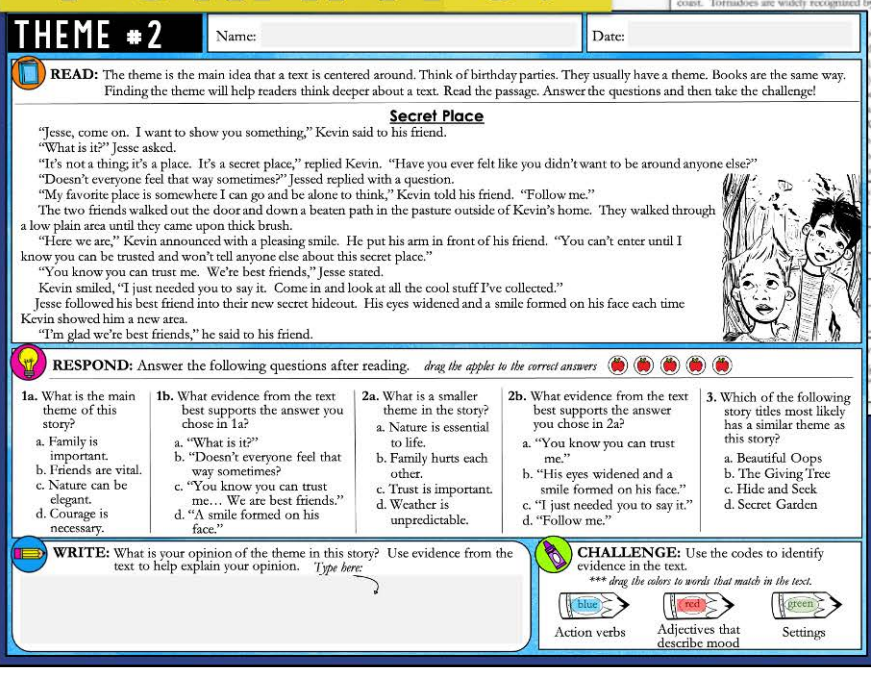
LEXILE

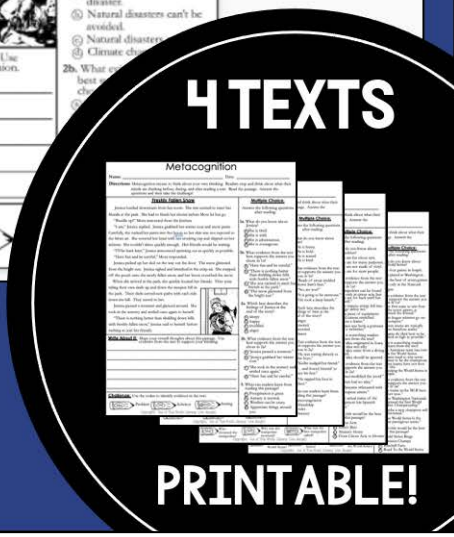
Theme



2 DIGITAL FORMATS!







Hello There!

I am so excited to be bringing you this set of comprehension passages, where everything you and your students need to practice a specific comprehension skills is on ONE page!

What Is Included:

1. 4 comprehension passages focused on theme.
2. 4 complete answer keys.
3. 2 Google Drive digital versions (horizontal and vertical)
4. Lexile and F&P Levels

Ideas to Use the Passages:

1. As a mentor text during a whole group lesson on theme.
2. In a small guided reading group.
3. In a comprehension center.
4. As independent practice after a lesson on theme.
5. As a homework review.
6. Practice for taking standardized texts.

CLICK THE IMAGE BELOW to see the Mini Units for Mastery!



Thank you so much to these amazing artists, whose work is found in this resource!







GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

Sleepover Scare
(Level P)

Secret Place
(Level M)

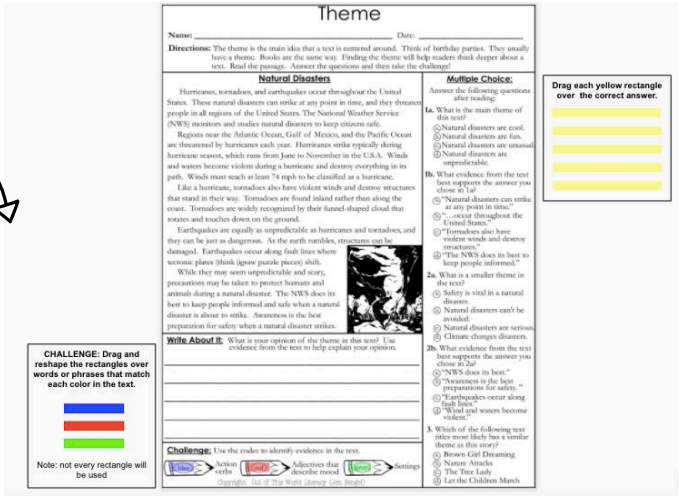
National Disasters
(Level Z)

The World Series
(Level Y)

ANSWER KEYS

DIGITAL VERSION #1

VERTICAL PAGES



GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

Sleepover Scare
(Level P)

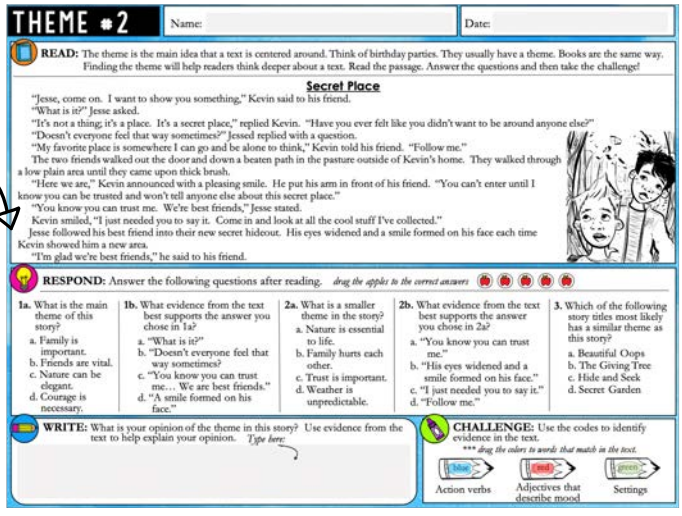
Secret Place
(Level M)

National Disasters
(Level Z)

The World Series
(Level Y)

ANSWER KEYS

DIGITAL VERSION #2
VERTICAL PAGES



THEME #2 Name: Date:

READ: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

Secret Place

"Jesse, come on. I want to show you something," Kevin said to his friend.
"What is it?" Jesse asked.
"It's not a thing; it's a place. It's a secret place," replied Kevin. "Have you ever felt like you didn't want to be around anyone else?"
"Doesn't everyone feel that way sometimes?" Jessed replied with a question.
"My favorite place is somewhere I can go and be alone to think," Kevin told his friend. "Follow me."
The two friends walked out the door and down a beaten path in the pasture outside of Kevin's home. They walked through a low plain area until they came upon thick brush.
"Here we are," Kevin announced with a pleasing smile. He put his arm in front of his friend. "You can't enter until I know you can be trusted and won't tell anyone else about this secret place."
"You know you can trust me. We're best friends," Jesse stated.
Kevin smiled, "I just needed you to say it. Come in and look at all the cool stuff I've collected."
Jesse followed his best friend into their new secret hideout. His eyes widened and a smile formed on his face each time Kevin showed him a new area.
"I'm glad we're best friends," he said to his friend.

RESPOND: Answer the following questions after reading. *drag the apples to the correct answers*

1a. What is the main theme of this story?
a. Family is important.
b. Friends are vital.
c. Nature can be elegant.
d. Courage is necessary.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?
a. "What is it?"
b. "Doesn't everyone feel that way sometimes?"
c. "You know you can trust me… We are best friends."
d. "A smile formed on his face."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the story?
a. Nature is essential to life.
b. Family hurts each other.
c. Trust is important.
d. Weather is unpredictable.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?
a. "You know you can trust me."
b. "His eyes widened and a smile formed on his face."
c. "I just needed you to say it."
d. "Follow me."

3. Which of the following story titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?
a. Beautiful Oops
b. The Giving Tree
c. Hide and Seek
d. Secret Garden

WRITE: What is your opinion of the theme in this story? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion. *Type here:*

CHALLENGE: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.
**** drag the colors to words that match in the text.*
blue — Action verbs
purple — Adjectives that describe mood
green — Settings

Theme

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

Sleepover Scare

Jera was excited for the sleepover at Kelly's house. The best friends had been planning the activities, menu, and guest list for the past two weeks. They had decided that the group of friends would hang out and sleep in the basement of Kelly's house while watching scary movies. They couldn't wait to be scared with their friends. They treasured these moments with their friends.

The night of Kelly's sleepover had finally arrived, and the weather outside was frightful. The night sky lit up with lightning, and thunder beat like a drum in the atmosphere.

Jera offered to start a movie for her friends to watch. The movie Jera and Kelly chose was a scary one. The friends huddled close together on the couch while the plot unfolded. With each spooky scene, the girls would let out a scream. Jera and Kelly exchanged a smile with one another, assuring themselves that the party was a huge success.

Just as the movie was getting to the scariest part, a large bolt of lightning burst through the sky. When the thunder sounded, the movie stopped. The basement was pitch dark. All the girls screamed at the top of their lungs. They were terrified and huddled closely to one another.



Mom opened the door to the basement and shouted, "Girls, you will need some flashlights. The power is out."

Jera looked at Kelly, "I guess we got what we wanted. This is the most scared I've ever been."

Write About It: What is your opinion of the theme in this story? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion.

Challenge: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue → Action verbs

red → Adjectives that describe mood

green → Settings

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Multiple Choice:

Answer the following questions after reading:

1a. What is the main theme of this story?

(a) Friends make things better.
(b) Look before you leap.
(c) Be careful what you wish for.
(d) Family is first.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?

(a) "They couldn't wait to be scared."
(b) "We got what we wanted."
(c) "You will need some flashlights."
(d) "The friends huddled close together on the couch."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the story?

(a) Weather is predictable.
(b) Friendships are important.
(c) Family first.
(d) Look before you leap.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?

(a) "They couldn't wait to be scared."
(b) "I guess we got what we wanted."
(c) "They treasured these moments with their friends."
(d) "All the girls screamed."

3. Which of the following story titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?

(a) The Little Engine That Could
(b) Wishing For a Snow Storm
(c) Just Me and My Dad
(d) The Cat in the Hat

PASSAGE FOR SPECIFIC SKILL

A/B QUESTIONS

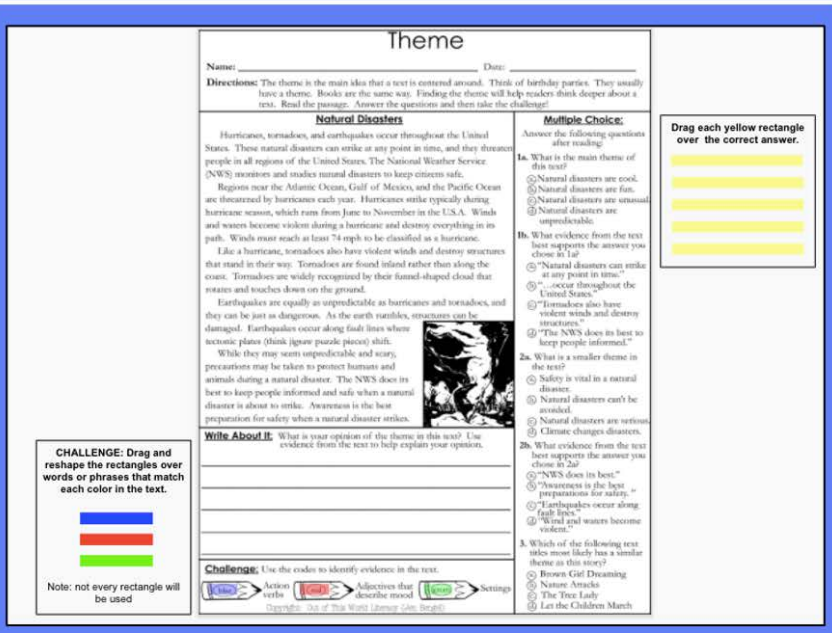
CUSTOM ILLUSTRATION

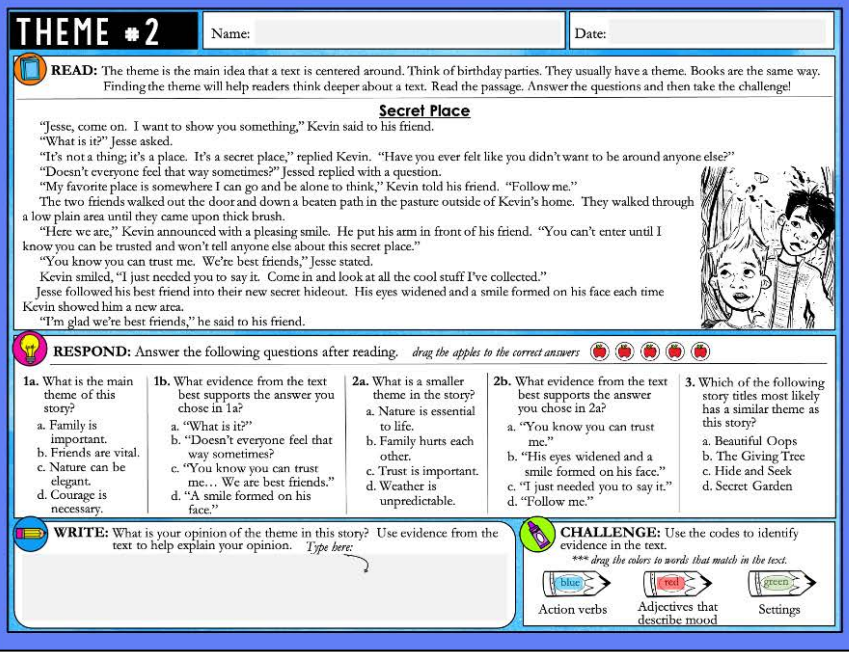
WRITTEN RESPONSE

IDENTIFY EVIDENCE IN THE TEXT

CHOOSE FROM 2 DIGITAL FORMATS!

VERTICAL VERSION





HORIZONTAL VERSION

GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

Sleepover Scare (Level P)

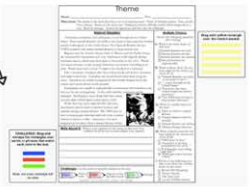
Secret Place (Level M)

National Disasters (Level Z)

The World Series (Level Y)

ANSWER KEYS

DIGITAL VERSION #1
VERTICAL PAGES



GOOGLE™ LINKS FOR STUDENTS

Click each link to assign work to students each day!

Sleepover Scare (Level P)

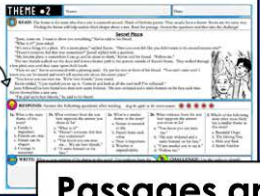
Secret Place (Level M)

National Disasters (Level Z)

The World Series (Level Y)

ANSWER KEYS

DIGITAL VERSION #2
VERTICAL PAGES



GOOGLE DRIVE READY!

4 ORIGINAL PASSAGES

PROFESSIONALLY LEVELED!

CUSTOM ILLUSTRATIONS

Passages and Reading Levels

Below is a list of titles included in this set of comprehension passages

Passage Title	Word Count	Genre	Comprehension Skill	Lexile Level	F&P Level	Grade Level
Sleepover Scare	245	Fiction	Theme	670L	P	3.9
Secret Place	213	Fiction	Theme	590L	M	3.2
Natural Disasters	233	NF	Theme	1030	Z	7.8
The World Series	241	NF	Theme	980L	Y	7

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Passages and Reading Levels

Below is a list of titles included in this set of comprehension passages

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Natural Disasters	233	NF	Theme	1030	Z	7.8
The World Series	241	NF	Theme	980L	Y	7

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The Standards: Grade 2

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: Sleepover Scare	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	2.8a Discuss topics and determine theme using text evidence with adult assistance.
Passage 2: Secret Place	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories and poetry, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	2.8a Discuss topics and determine theme using text evidence with adult assistance.
Passage 3: Natural Disasters	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	2.8a Discuss topics and determine theme using text evidence with adult assistance.
Passage 4: The Titanic	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	2.8a Discuss topics and determine theme using text evidence with adult assistance.

The Standards: Grade 3

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: Sleepover Scare	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	3.8a Infer the theme of a work, distinguishing theme from topic.
Passage 2: Secret Place	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	3.8a Infer the theme of a work, distinguishing theme from topic.
Passage 3: Natural Disasters	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	3.8a Infer the theme of a work, distinguishing theme from topic.
Passage 4: The Titanic	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	3.8a Infer the theme of a work, distinguishing theme from topic.

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The Standards: Grade 4

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: Sleepover Scare	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	4.8a Infer basic themes supported by text evidence.
Passage 2: Secret Place	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	4.8a Infer basic themes supported by text evidence.
Passage 3: Natural Disasters	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	4.8a Infer basic themes supported by text evidence.
Passage 4: The Titanic	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.10 By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	4.8a Infer basic themes supported by text evidence.

The Standards: Grade 5

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: Sleepover Scare	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8a Infer multiple themes within a text using text evidence.
Passage 2: Secret Place	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).	5.8a Infer multiple themes within a text using text evidence.
Passage 3: Natural Disasters	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	5.8a Infer multiple themes within a text using text evidence.
Passage 4: The Titanic	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	5.8a Infer multiple themes within a text using text evidence.

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The Standards: Grade 6

	Common Core State Standard	TEK Standard
Passage 1: Sleepover Scare	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	6.7a Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence.
Passage 2: Secret Place	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	6.7a Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence.
Passage 3: Naturall Disasters	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	6.7a Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence.
Passage 4: The Titanic	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	6.7a Infer multiple themes within and across texts using text evidence.

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THEME #1

Name:

Date:

READ: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around [illegible] think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers thin[illegible] [illegible]eepe[illegible] [illegible]out a[illegible]t. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

[illegible]er Scare

Jera was excited for the sleepover at Kelly's house. The best friends had been planning the activities, menu, and guest list for the past two weeks. They had decided that the group of friends would hang out and sleep in [illegible] basement of Kelly's house while watching scary movies. They couldn't wait to be scared with their friends. They [illegible]sured these moments with their friends.

The night of Kelly's sleepover had finally arrived, and [illegible]e was frightful. The night sky lit up with lightning, and thunder beat like a drum in the atmosphere.

Jera offered to start a movie for her friends to watch. The movie Jera and Kelly chose was a scary one. The friends huddled close together on the couch while the plot unfold[illegible] each spooky scene, the girls would let out a scream. Jera and Kelly exchanged a smile with one another, assuri[illegible] them[illegible]ves that the party was a huge success.

Just as the movie was getting to the scariest part, a larg[illegible] [illegible]urst through the sky. When the thunder sounded, the movie stopped. The basement was pitch dark. All the girls screamed at the top of their lungs. They were terrified and huddled closely to one another.

Mom opened the door to the basement and shouted, "Gi[illegible] need some flashlights. The power is out."

Jera looked at Kelly, "I guess we got what we wanted. [illegible] most scared I've ever been."



RESPOND: Answer the following questions after reading.

1a. What is the main theme of this story?
- a. Friends make things better.
- b. Look before you leap.
- c. Be careful what you wish for.
- d. Family is first.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?
- a. "They couldn't wait to be scared."
- b. "We got what we wanted."
- c. "You will need some flashlights."
- d. "The friends huddled close together on the couch."

[illegible] is a smaller [illegible] story?
- a. Weather [illegible] pre[illegible]
- b. [illegible]s are [illegible]mporta[illegible]
- d. Look [illegible] you leap.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?
- a. "They couldn't wait to be scared."
- b. "I guess we got what we wanted."
- c. "They treasured these moments with their friends."
- d. "All the girls screamed."

3. Which of the following story titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?
- a. The Little Engine That Could
- b. Wishing For a Snow Storm
- c. Just Me and My Dad
- d. The Cat in the Hat

WRITE: What is your opinion of the theme in this story? Use evi[illegible]om the text to help explain your opinion.

CHALLENGE: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue — Action verbs

red — Adjectives that describe mood

green — Settings

SAMPLE

Theme

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Directions: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

Sleepover Scare

Jera was excited for the sleepover at Kelly's house. The best friends had been planning the activities, menu, and guest list for the past two weeks. They had decided that the group of friends would hang out and sleep in the basement of Kelly's house while watching scary movies. They couldn't wait to be scared with their friends. They treasured these moments with their friends.

The night of Kelly's sleepover had finally arrived, and the weather outside was frightful. The night sky lit up with lightning, and thunder beat like a drum in the atmosphere.

Jera offered to start a movie for her friends to watch. The movie Jera and Kelly chose was a scary one. The friends huddled close together on the couch while the plot unfolded. With each spooky scene, the girls would let out a scream. Jera and Kelly exchanged a smile with one another, assuring themselves that the party was a huge success.

Just as the movie was getting to the scariest part, a large bolt of lightning burst through the sky. When the thunder sounded, the movie stopped. The basement was pitch dark. All the girls screamed at the top of their lungs. They were terrified and huddled closely to one another.



Mom opened the door to the basement and shouted, "Girls, you will need some flashlights. The power is out."

Jera looked at Kelly, "I guess we got what we wanted. This is the most scared I've ever been."

Write About It: What is your opinion of the theme in this story? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion.

Answer Should Include:

1. The reader's opinion of the theme.
2. Evidence from the text that explains the reader's opinion.

Challenge: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue Action verbs | red Adjectives that describe mood | green Settings

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Multiple Choice:

Answer the following questions after reading:

1a. What is the main theme of this story?

- (a) Friends make things better.
- (b) Look before you leap.
- (c) Be careful what you wish for.
- (d) Family is first.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?

- (a) "They couldn't wait to be scared."
- (b) "We got what we wanted."
- (c) "You will need some flashlights."
- (d) "The friends huddled close together on the couch."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the story?

- (a) Weather is predictable.
- (b) Friendships are important.
- (c) Family first.
- (d) Look before you leap.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?

- (a) "They couldn't wait to be scared."
- (b) "I guess we got what we wanted."
- (c) "They treasured these moments with their friends."
- (d) "All the girls screamed."

3. Which of the following story titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?

- (a) The Little Engine That Could
- (b) Wishing For a Snow Storm
- (c) Just Me and My Dad
- (d) The Cat in the Hat

Theme

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Directions: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

Secret Place

"Jesse, come on. I want to show you something," Kevin said to his friend.

"What is it?" Jesse asked.

"It's not a thing; it's a place. It's a secret place," replied Kevin. "Have you ever felt like you didn't want to be around anyone else?"

"Doesn't everyone feel that way sometimes?" Jessed replied with a question.

"My favorite place is somewhere I can go and be alone to think," Kevin told his friend. "Follow me."

The two friends walked out the door and down a beaten path in the pasture outside of Kevin's home. They walked through a low plain area until they came upon thick brush.

"Here we are," Kevin announced with a pleasing smile. He put his arm in front of his friend. "You can't enter until I know you can be trusted and won't tell anyone else about this secret place."



"You know you can trust me. We're best friends," Jesse stated.

Kevin smiled, "I just needed you to say it. Come in and look at all the cool stuff I've collected."

Jesse followed his best friend into their new secret hideout. His eyes widened and a smile formed on his face each time Kevin showed him a new area.

"I'm glad we're best friends," he said to his friend.

Write About It: What is your opinion of the theme in this story? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion.

Answer Should Include:

1. The reader's opinion of the theme.

2. Evidence from the text that explains the reader's opinion.

Challenge: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue — Action verbs; red — Adjectives that describe mood; green — Settings

Multiple Choice:

Answer the following questions after reading:

1a. What is the main theme of this story?

(a) Family is important.
(b) Friends are vital.
(c) Nature can be elegant.
(d) Courage is necessary.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?

(a) "What is it?"
(b) "Doesn't everyone feel that way sometimes?
(c) "You know you can trust me… We are best friends."
(d) "A smile formed on his face."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the story?

(a) Nature is essential to life.
(b) Family hurts each other.
(c) Trust is important.
(d) Weather is unpredictable.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?

(a) "You know you can trust me."
(b) "His eyes widened and a smile formed on his face."
(c) "I just needed you to say it."
(d) "Follow me."

3. Which of the following story titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?

(a) Beautiful Oops
(b) The Giving Tree
(c) Hide and Seek
(d) Secret Garden

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Theme

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Directions: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

Natural Disasters

Hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes occur throughout the United States. These natural disasters can strike at any point in time, and they threaten people in all regions of the United States. The National Weather Service (NWS) monitors and studies natural disasters to keep citizens safe.

Regions near the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean are threatened by hurricanes each year. Hurricanes strike typically during hurricane season, which runs from June to November in the U.S.A. Winds and waters become violent during a hurricane and destroy everything in its path. Winds must reach at least 74 mph to be classified as a hurricane.

Like a hurricane, tornadoes also have violent winds and destroy structures that stand in their way. Tornadoes are found inland rather than along the coast. Tornadoes are widely recognized by their funnel-shaped cloud that rotates and touches down on the ground.

Earthquakes are equally as unpredictable as hurricanes and tornadoes, and they can be just as dangerous. As the earth rumbles, structures can be damaged. Earthquakes occur along fault lines where tectonic plates (think jigsaw puzzle pieces) shift.



While they may seem unpredictable and scary, precautions may be taken to protect humans and animals during a natural disaster. The NWS does its best to keep people informed and safe when a natural disaster is about to strike. Awareness is the best preparation for safety when a natural disaster strikes.

Write About It: What is your opinion of the theme in this text? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion.

Answer Should Include:

1. The reader's opinion of the theme.
2. Evidence from the text that explains the reader's opinion.

Challenge: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue Action verbs | red Adjectives that describe mood | green Settings

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Multiple Choice:

Answer the following questions after reading:

1a. What is the main theme of this text?

(a) Natural disasters are cool.
(b) Natural disasters are fun.
(c) Natural disasters are unusual.
(d) Natural disasters are unpredictable.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?

(a) "Natural disasters can strike at any point in time."
(b) "…occur throughout the United States."
(c) "Tornadoes also have violent winds and destroy structures."
(d) "The NWS does its best to keep people informed."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the text?

(a) Safety is vital in a natural disaster.
(b) Natural disasters can't be avoided.
(c) Natural disasters are serious.
(d) Climate changes disasters.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?

(a) "NWS does its best."
(b) "Awareness is the best preparations for safety."
(c) "Earthquakes occur along fault lines."
(d) "Wind and waters become violent."

3. Which of the following text titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?

(a) Brown Girl Dreaming
(b) Nature Attacks
(c) The Tree Lady
(d) Let the Children March

Theme

Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Directions: The theme is the main idea that a text is centered around. Think of birthday parties. They usually have a theme. Books are the same way. Finding the theme will help readers think deeper about a text. Read the passage. Answer the questions and then take the challenge!

The Titanic

Measuring 882 feet, engineers declared the monster ship unsinkable. Titanic captured attention from numerous sources prior to its maiden voyage. Titanic departed from Southampton, England on April 10, 1912. Although the 2,240 passengers aboard hoped to set sail and dock in New York, U.S.A., the obstacles met during the journey would not allow this to happen.

Passengers of Titanic purchased tickets to embark on the journey of a lifetime. They embraced being part of history as the ship began its first transatlantic journey. They would soon learn this trip would be like no other. From the beginning, there were signs that the ship may not be as strong as it advertised. A small coal fire was discovered and extinguished in the bunkers.

Four days after setting sail, on April 14, the ship received reports of ice from other ships in the area. Titanic ignored the warnings and continued at full speed toward New York. That night, under a beautifully clear sky, the Titanic's lookout spotted an iceberg. The warnings should not have been dismissed. The sailors worked quickly to reverse the engines, but they were unsuccessful. The massive ship struck an iceberg and tore a 300-foot-hole in the boat below the water. Unaware of just how much damage there was, the Titanic continued on. The ship began to take on water and eventually sank. Titanic claimed over 1,500 lives.



The ship that boasted of its unsinkable structure failed when put to the test. Titanic continues to captivate attention and is known for its tragedy.

Write About It: What is your opinion of the theme in this text? Use evidence from the text to help explain your opinion.

Answer Should Include:

1. The reader's opinion of the theme.
2. Evidence from the text that explains the reader's opinion.

Challenge: Use the codes to identify evidence in the text.

blue — Action verbs; red — Adjectives that describe mood; green — Settings

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Multiple Choice:

Answer the following questions after reading:

1a. What is the main theme of this text?

(a) Nothing is sinkable.
(b) Nothing is unstoppable.
(c) Ships are safe.
(d) What happened to Titanic.

1b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 1a?

(a) "The massive ship struck an iceberg and tore a 300-foot-hole in the boat."
(b) "They would soon learn this trip would be like no other."
(c) "There were signs the ship may not be as strong as it advertised."
(d) "Unaware of the damage, Titanic continued on."

2a. What is a smaller theme in the text?

(a) Difficult times can be tragic.
(b) Listen to others.
(c) Be careful what you wish for.
(d) Teamwork is key.

2b. What evidence from the text best supports the answer you chose in 2a?

(a) "Titanic continues to captivate attention."
(b) "Passengers purchased ticket to embark on the journey of a lifetime."
(c) "Titanic continued on."
(d) "The warnings should not have been dismissed."

3. Which of the following text titles most likely has a similar theme as this story?

(a) The Giving Tree
(b) Fascinating History
(c) Three Little Pigs
(d) Beautiful Oops