

“Theme” Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Chastain’s Class
General Smallwood Middle School Charles County, Maryland

1	Good morning, class.	20	Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
All	Good morning, _____.	1	[relieved] Thank you! Now you get it?
1	Does anybody know what “theme” means?	All	Sure! Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
2	Oooh, I do! A theme has to have a lot of action and death!	1	Excellent! Now how about some examples?
All	Action! [sound effect] [gesture] Death! [sound effect] [gesture]	2	Oh! Oh! Like in <u>The Iditarod Trail</u> —A challenge can be difficult, but rewarding.
3	No, you don’t understand! A theme is a song that starts a show.	1	Yes!
All	[Hum “Jeopardy” theme song]	All	[sound effect] [gesture—congratulating #16]
4	That’s a theme song! A theme is like what you choose for a dance	3	And in <u>The Outsiders</u> —Life for teens is hard, but you can get through it.
5	Oh! Like the eighth grade dance theme—“Can’t Fight the Moonlight!”	4	You really can make it through teen pregnancies, family fights, Abuse, and drugs.
6	Or a theme park! Like Busch Gardens	6	Or in <u>The Midwife’s Apprentice</u> where Brat becomes Dung Beetle, then Beetle, then Brat, then Alyce.
7	Kings Dominion	7	[not understanding] Help me out here.....
8	Watercountry USA	8	As time goes on, people call the main character different names.
9	Six Flags	9	Her changing name goes along with the inner changes in her.
All	Disneyworld!	10	So the theme is “Perseverance.”
1	No, a theme....	1	Remember—you should be able to state the theme or the “big idea” in a sentence.
10	...is a title!	11	As time goes on, if you don’t give up, you can reach your goals.
1	Stop! You’re all wrong! I mean a theme in literature!	7	Got it.
All	Ohhhhhh, a theme in literature! [gesture]	12	Oh! How about <u>The Island of the Blue Dolphin</u> ? Karana survived all those years alone on that island.
1	[sound effect] A theme is the major idea or ideas that the writer presents about life in general through the vehicle of the story.	13	So the theme could be...
11	Vehicle as in car? [laughs at own joke...]	All	Survival! [gesture] [sound effect]
12	No! It’s the main point of the novel	1	Sentence, please.
13	book		
14	story		
15	movie		
16	poem		
17	play		
18	song		
19	or TV show.		

14	Learn from your past and stay hopeful about your future and you will be a survivor.	All	[sound effect]
		1	What about a play?
15	<u>Survivor!</u> I love that TV show!	19	<u>Romeo and Juliet!</u> – Secret relationships can end in sorrow.
1	Great. What’s its theme?	All	[sound effect]
16	It’s “Deception, greed, and betrayal will earn you a million dollars.”	1	A song?
All	Ch-ching!	20	Stray Cat Strut sings one that says “Sometimes you just have to be laid back and relaxed.”
1	Anyone know a movie theme?		
17	Me! In <u>Spiderman</u> , it’s “With great power comes great responsibility.”	1	[sound effect—sigh!] Yes! Now does everybody get what Theme is?
1	How about a poem?	All	Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
18	Oh! Remember “Nothing Gold Can Stay?” Its theme is “Nothing Lasts Forever.”	1	Class dismissed!