

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHANGING THE THEME

A story's plot and characters contribute to its theme. In this exercise, we'll see what happens when they change.

THEME BANK:

Change

Courage

Family

Fate

Fear

Friendship

Identity

Justice

Life and Death

Love

Man vs. Nature

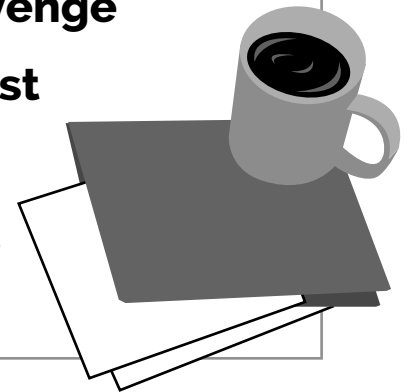
Overcoming Obstacles

Perseverance

Pride

Revenge

Trust



1. Think of a favorite book or movie and look at the theme bank above to see if your story contains any of these themes. (If it doesn't, think of another story that does include one.) Choose one theme, and on a separate sheet of paper, explain how you know that the theme is present in the story you've chosen. You can add to the theme to make it more specific—for example, instead of "fear," maybe the theme in your story is "fear holds us back from taking chances." Make sure it's still a universal theme, not a summary of what happens in the story (that's a main idea).

2. Choose a character or part of the plot from your story and imagine that it changes in some way. For example, maybe the character's personality or actions change, or the plot plays out in a different way. Write about how it changes.

3. Think about how this change in character or plot affects the theme you chose above. Does this change cause the theme of the story to change, too? Why or why not? If the theme does change, what do you think it changes to? Explain your answer.