

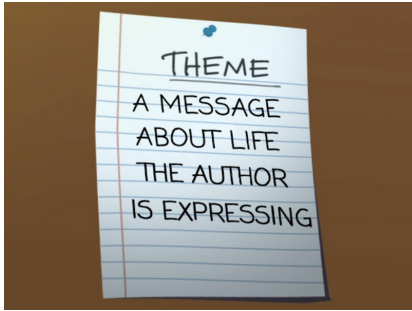
Theme in Literature

"What's the Big Idea?"

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

Lyric: We're talking about a theme or a big idea. It's a message about life the author is expressing,

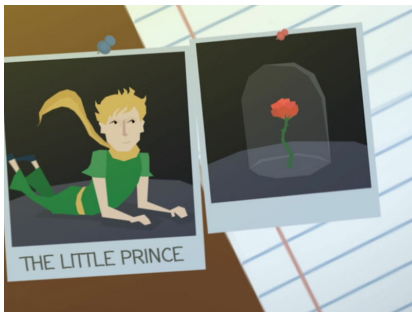
Notes



A **theme** is the big idea in a story. It's the message about people or the world that the author is trying to get across. Themes are **universal**, which means they are true in all times and all places. They apply to many different types of people.

Lyric: In The Little Prince, I won't keep you guessing, "Relationships teach you important lessons."

Notes



A big theme in 'The Little Prince' is the loss of childhood.

Themes are about universal topics. For example, a topic could be compassion, relationships or fate. A theme is often stated as a judgment about one of these topics. For example, a theme about the topic of relationships could be "relationships teach you important

lessons."

Lyric: Many different stories have themes that they share, It could be in this book, and that book over there.

Notes



There can be multiple themes in one story.

Stories that come from different parts of the world, cultures or time periods can have the same theme.

Lyric: The main idea's what a text is about mostly, While the theme is more sweeping, so you've got to read closely.

Notes



Many different works of literature share the same themes.

The **main idea** is what the story is mostly about, or a quick summary of what happened. In contrast, the theme is the author's larger message that he or she wants the reader to take away.

Lyric: Now, a writer won't come right out and say what the theme is, But with the character and plot you don't need to be a genius.

Notes



There is a difference between theme and main idea.

In most stories, you have to analyze the characters' traits and the events of the plot to infer the theme. **Characters** are the people, animals or creatures in stories. The **plot** is the sequence of events in the story.

Lyric: Because a text can have more than one theme to discover.

Notes



Theme is like a mystery you have to search for in a text.

You and your friend might analyze the plot and the characters of a story and come up with two different correct themes.