

Vertical Progression:

4th Grade	RL 4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
5th Grade	RL 5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
6th Grade	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.
7th Grade	RL 7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Students will demonstrate command of the Standard by:

- Describing or graphically representing the relationship between central ideas and supporting details.
- Determining a theme or central idea of literary text(s)
- Explaining how particular details reveal a theme or convey the central idea
- Summarizing a text capturing the most important parts of the original piece
- Summarizing a text distinct from personal opinions or judgments

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| • Central idea | • Judgment | • Summary |
| • Convey | • Opinion | • Text |
| • Detail | • Personal | • Theme |
| • Distinct | • Summarize | |

Question Stems:

- What does _____ represent in this story?
- Which of the following best captures the theme?
- What is the theme of _____ (text title)? What details in the story/poem/drama help the reader determine this theme?
- How does the author of _____ (text title) help the reader understand the theme of the story? What details

from the story support your answer?

- How does the author use the way _____ responds to his situation to develop the theme of the story?
- Summarize the story/drama/poem without including personal opinions or judgments.

PARCC Evidence Statement:

- Provides a statement of a theme or central idea of a text.
- Provides a description of how the theme or central idea is conveyed through particular details.
- Provides a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Sample Instructional/Assessment Tasks:

1. PARCC – [6th Grade Practice Test Items](#)

◆ **Question 6 - Part A** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

Which statement expresses a theme in "Emancipation: A Life Fable"?

- A. Independence is worth the possible hardships.
- B. Security is necessary for happiness.
- C. Confusion can lead to bad decisions.
- D. Nature can shelter and comfort wounded animals.

Correct Answer: A

◆ **Question 33** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

What is a theme in the passage from *The Story of a Bad Boy*?

- A. Boys who like adventure want to become sailors.
- B. Boys who appreciate the sea usually journey far from home.
- C. Boys who buy boats must be careful and responsible.
- D. Boys who grow up near the sea are naturally drawn to it.

Correct Answer: D

◆ **Question 37** ([link](#)) **Passages** (1st passage [link](#) and 2nd passage [link](#))

How do the boys' attitudes about the sea emphasize a common central idea of the passages?

- A. Both view the sea as an adventurous place.
- B. Both think of the sea as a highly dangerous place.
- C. Both consider the seashore a good place to raise a family.
- D. Both look at the sea as a place to earn a living as a fisherman.

Correct Answer: A

2. Achieve the Core – [Grade 6 Literature Mini-Assessment](#)

◆ **Question 6** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

What is one of the themes of Text 1?

- A. Taking a risk is worthwhile when trying to change a bad situation.
- B. True friendships remain strong during difficult times.

- C. A person should make his or her own decisions in the face of peer pressure.
- D. No sacrifice is too big to make in order to help one's family.

Correct Answer: A

◆ **Question 9 - Part A** ([link](#)) **Passage** ([link](#))

In Text 2, what central idea is developed?

- A. The children are becoming stronger since Iqbal's arrival.
- B. The worst effect of child labor is that children are deprived of a quality education.
- C. The living conditions force the children to use things in their environment to meet basic needs.
- D. Iqbal's values changed when he was exposed to the outside world.

Correct Answer: A