

**Vertical Progression:**

<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p><b>RL 5.2</b> 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.</p>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p><b>RL 6.2</b> 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.</p>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p><b>RL 7.2</b> 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.</p>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<p><b>RL 8.2</b> Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.</p>

**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)
- Analyzing how particular details reveal a theme or convey the central idea
- Summarizing a text capturing the most important parts of the original piece
- Creating an objective summary (excluding personal opinions)

**Vocabulary:**

- Analyze
- Central idea
- Development
- Objective
- Summarize
- Text
- Theme

**Question Stems:**

- What is the theme or central idea?
- How does the author use \_\_\_\_\_ to develop the theme/central idea \_\_\_\_\_?
- How is the theme developed over the course of the text?
- Where does the theme recur throughout the text?

- How can you objectively summarize the text?
- What makes a summary objective?
- What is the theme of \_\_\_\_\_? How does the author develop this theme over the course of the text? Use examples from the text in your answer.
- What is the central idea of \_\_\_\_\_? How does the author develop this idea over the course of the text? Use examples from the text in your answer.

### PARCC Evidence Statement:

- Provides a statement of a theme or central idea of a text.
- Provides an analysis of the development of the theme or central idea over the course of the text.
- Provides an objective summary of the text.

### Sample Instructional/Assessment Tasks:

1. PARCC – [7th Grade Practice Test Items](#)

◆ **Question 3 - Part A** ([link](#))

Passage ([link](#))

What is a central idea of *The Count of Monte Cristo*?

- A. Poor conditions cause a man to imagine sounds in his cell.
- B. A jailer takes pity on a hungry man and offers him food.
- C. The lack of company causes a man to befriend his jailer.
- D. A confined man is energized by the possibility of escape.

**Correct Answer: D**

◆ **Question 23 – Part A** ([link](#))

Passage ([link](#))

How do the dragons' actions contribute to the development of the theme of the folktale?

- A. Their playfulness shows that appearances can be misleading when making character judgments.
- B. Their willingness to disobey the Jade Emperor shows that sacrifice is often needed for the good of others.
- C. Their reliability shows that respecting one's elders and following instructions are necessary for a successful society.
- D. Their respect for the Jade Emperor shows that children can learn much from their ancestors about historical events.

**Correct Answer: B**

◆ **Question 30 – Part A** ([link](#))

Passage ([link](#))

Which sentence describes a central idea of the passage?

- A. Cromwell has become much more energetic than he was before.
- B. Kevin and Howie have different ideas about what activities are worthwhile.
- C. Cromwell enjoys exercising on the beach more than playing at the park.
- D. Howie wants Cromwell to participate in different types of dog competitions.

**Correct Answer: B**

2. **Achieve the Core – [Grade 7 Literature Mini-Assessment](#)**

◆ **Question 2** ([link](#))

**Passage** ([link](#))

Which lines from the poem **best** illustrate the theme of this poem?

- A. “It mounts at sea, a concave wall / Down-ribbed with shine,”
- B. “Then from their hiding rise to sight / Black shapes on boards”
- C. “The marbling bodies have become / Half wave, half men,”
- D. “They paddle in the shallows still; / Two splash each other;

**Correct Answer: C**

◆ **Question 7 – Part A** ([link](#))

**Passage** ([link](#))

Which statement most accurately captures the central idea of the poem?

- A. Surfing is both a challenging and dangerous activity.
- B. Surfing is a way to learn more about cycles in the natural world.
- C. Surfers must connect with the motion of the waves to be successful.
- D. Surfers must practice extensively to be able to master the activity.

**Correct Answer: C**