

MAGEN DAVID YESHIVAH

SUMMER READING 2009

You have received a packet of assignments to help you remember what you read over the summer. Please bring the short story booklet and all your completed, written work with you upon your return to school in September. Please be prepared for a test on the summer reading during class and remember that the works listed below will be referred to throughout the year in your literature classes and assessments. While it is important to complete the summer reading and to

GRADE 6 INTO 7		
TITLE	AUTHOR	
Short Story Packet (required reading)		
“Utzel and His Daughter, Poverty”	Isaac Bashevis Singer	
“Home”	Gwendolyn Brooks	
“The Gift of the Magi”	O. Henry	
“The Monkey’s Paw”	W.W. Jacobs	
“The Necklace”	Guy De Maupassant	
“The Tell-Tale Heart”	Edgar Allan Poe	
<i>Fever 1793</i> (required novel)	Laurie Anderson	
PICK ONE MORE TO READ!		
<i>The Lives of Christopher Chant</i>	Diana Wynne Jones	
<i>Old Yeller</i>	Fred Gipson	
<i>Joshua’s Song</i>	Joan Hiatt Harlow	
<i>Midnight Rider</i>	Joan Hiatt Harlow	
<i>The Homeless Bird</i>	Gloria Whelan	

Name:

Directions: Read “Utzel and His Daughter, Poverty” by Isaac Bashevis Singer, and complete the assignment below using only a blue or black pen.

Writing a Theme Statement

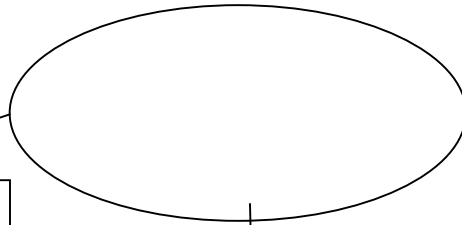
Theme is the statement about life that the author wants to convey to the reader. It is the writer’s message, or main point. Sometimes themes are easy to spot. A character may directly say something about life that is important. Other times, it is up to the reader to figure out what the author is trying to teach us.

Step 1: Find the “big ideas” or general topics in the work.

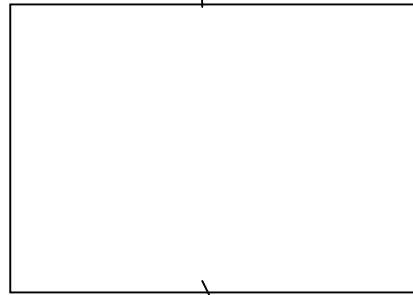
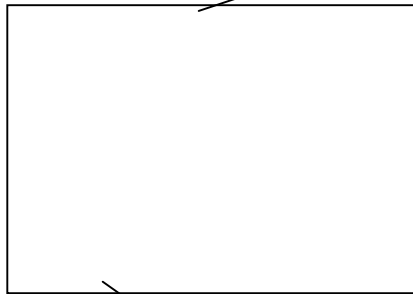
Step 2: Look for what the characters do or say that relates to the topic.

Step 3: Come up with a statement of the author’s message or point about the topic.

1. **Topic**



2. **What Characters Do or Say**

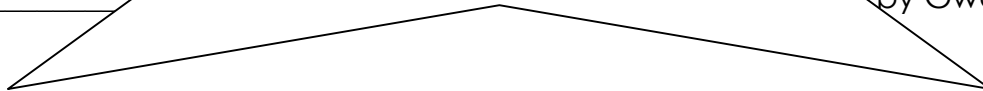


3. **What Is Important to Learn**



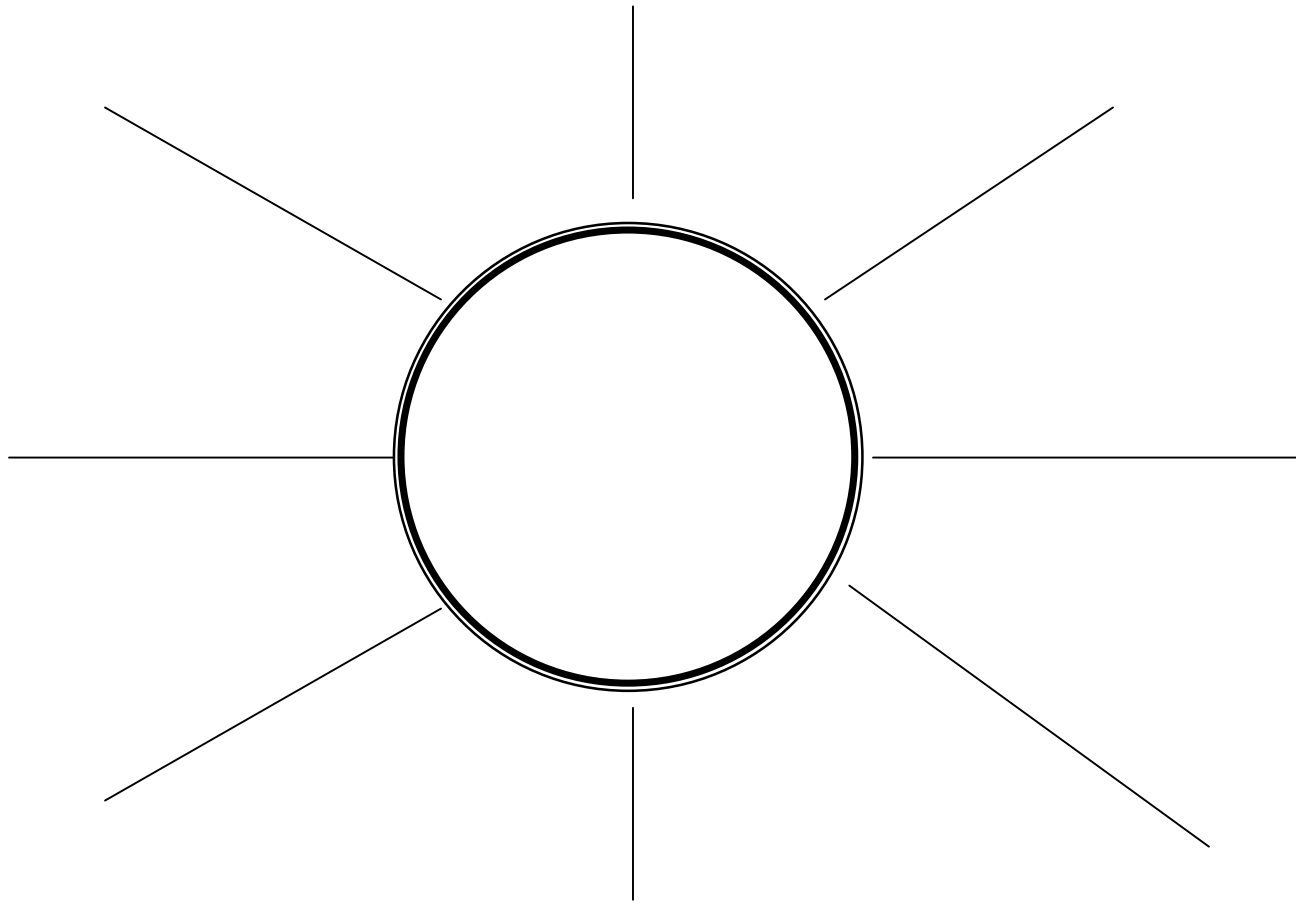
Name _____

_____ by Gwendolyn Brooks (p. 1)



A **universal theme** is one that has meaning and importance for people all over the world. Usually, such a theme will be implied rather than stated directly as in “*Utzel and his Daughter, Poverty.*”

Directions: Read “*Home,*” and then use the sunburst dial below to help you define what home means to you. On each of the rays, write one aspect or characteristic of a home. Use only a blue or black pen. Add additional rays, as needed. Example: comfort



Name _____

“*Home,*” by Gwendolyn Brooks (p. 2)

Directions: Read the story and identify two character traits for each character below. Support your answer with examples or quotes from the story. Use only a blue or black pen. Use additional paper, as needed.

Character traits are words, usually adjectives, which are used to describe a person's personality. Some examples are brave, caring, reckless, stubborn, selfless, and generous.

Della

trait #1 _____

support _____

trait #2 _____

support _____

Jim

trait #1 _____

support _____

trait #2 _____

support _____

Name _____

"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry (p. 2)

What main ideas are revealed from the character's actions?

What can you learn from the relationship between the characters?

Name _____

"The Monkey's Paw," by W.W. Jacobs (p. 1)

Directions: Read the story and answer all questions in full sentences. Use only a blue or black pen.

Identify the **characters** in the story.

Identify the **main conflict** in the story with details from the text.

What **event** reveals the power of the monkey's paw?

Which character do you think believes the most strongly in the power of the monkey's paw? Explain your answer, using support from the text.

Name _____

"The Monkey's Paw," by W.W. Jacobs (p. 2)

What is the **author's message** throughout the story?

What is the **lesson learned**?

Name _____

"The Necklace" by Guy De Maupassant (p. 1)

Directions: Read the story and complete the following assignment writing in complete sentences using details from the story . Use only a blue or black pen.

Identify the **three main characters** in the story. (name only)

What is the **main conflict** in the story?

What **event** in the story **escalates** the conflict?

Name _____

“The Necklace” by Guy De Maupassant (p. 2)

In a well-constructed paragraph discuss the following:

The story has an ending similar to that of "The Gift of the Magi." What is similar about the endings of the two stories and what main idea is different? How are the characters different?

Name _____

"The Tell Tale Heart," by Edgar Allan Poe (p. 1)

Directions: Please use only a blue or black pen.

- Read "The Tell Tale Heart," and then write an example below for each of the following senses that the narrator uses to create a mood of suspense and horror.
- On the back of the sheet, explain what you think the title means and support it with details about something you read in the story.

IMAGERY:
language that appeals to the
senses of sight, hearing, taste,
smell, or touch

SIGHT:

Examples:

HEARING:

Examples:

TASTE:

Examples:

TOUCH:

Examples:

SMELL:

Examples:

Name _____

Date _____

Fever 1793 By Laurie Halse Anderson

Required Summer Reading for Grade 7

Directions: Answer all questions in full sentences. Please use only a blue or black pen. Use additional paper, as needed.

To what genre (category) of literature does this book belong?

Identify character traits for Matilda and use them to describe her personality.

Identify another character in the novel and describe him/her using character traits.

What problem/conflict/challenge did Matilda face?

Name _____

Date _____

Fever 1793 By Laurie Halse Anderson (p. 2)

Please summarize the plot in a three to four sentence synopsis.

What are the "big ideas" or themes of the book?

What lesson can you learn from the story?

Would you encourage others to read this novel? Why or why not?

Name _____

Date _____

Fever 1793 By Laurie Halse Anderson (p. 3)

Directions: Choose one of the following novels and answer all questions in full sentences. Please use only a blue or black pen. Use additional paper, as needed.

The Lives of Christopher Chant

by Dianna Wynne Jones

Old Yeller

by Fred Gipson

Joshua's Song

by Joan Hiatt Harlow

The Homeless Bird

by Gloria Whelan

To what genre (category) of literature does the book belong?

Identify the main character and describe him/her.

What problem/conflict/challenge did he/she face?

Please summarize the plot in a three to four sentence synopsis.

Name _____

Date _____

Free Choice Summer Reading for Grade 7 (p.2)

What are the "big ideas" or themes of the book?

What lesson can you learn from the story?

Would you encourage others to read this book? Why or why not?
