

SMART™ Lesson

Literary Analysis: Understanding Theme

When we read a piece of literature, we can discover many different things. One of the most important things we can find is the theme of the story. The theme is the message or lesson that the author wants to convey to the reader. The theme can be expressed in a single word or phrase, or it can be a complex idea or concept.

Finding the Theme

There are several ways to find the theme of a story:

- Pay attention to the title of the story.
- Look for repeated words or phrases throughout the story.
- Pay attention to the characters' actions and behaviors.
- Think about the main conflict or problem in the story.
- Consider the author's message or purpose in writing the story.

Examples of Themes

Here are some common themes that you might find in literature:

- Love
- Friendship
- Betrayal
- Overcoming adversity
- Growing up
- Death and loss
- Good vs. evil
- Family

Questions:

1. What is the theme of a story?
2. What are some ways to find the theme of a story?
3. Can the theme of a story be a complex idea or concept?
4. What are some common themes found in literature?

Remember, understanding the theme of a story can help you understand its deeper meaning and appreciate it even more!

