

Name: _____

Story Theme



“A Tale of Two Cities”

by Charles Dickens

The two types of themes that can be found in a story are major and minor. A major theme is an idea that an author repeats in the story, making it the main theme of the story. A minor theme is an idea that shows up in a story briefly, giving way to another minor theme.

Do not confuse a theme of a story with its subject. Subject is a topic that acts as a foundation for a story, while a theme is an opinion expressed on the subject. For example, a writer may choose a subject of conflict for their story, and the theme may be their personal opinion that conflict is a natural part of the human race.

Writers present themes in a story through several ways. A writer may express a theme through the feelings of their main character about the subject they have chosen to write about. Themes can also be presented through thoughts and conversations of different characters. Most importantly, the experiences of the main character throughout a story give us an idea about its theme. Finally, the actions and events taking place in a narrative are important in determining its theme.

Examples of Themes:

- **Love**
- **Fear**
- **Death**
- **Good vs. evil**
- **Coming of age**
- **Power and corruption**
- **Survival**
- **Courage and Heroism**

Identify the MAJOR THEME and TWO MINOR THEMES from the Story. Describe what happened in the story that illustrates that THEME

MAJOR THEME: _____

Where is this illustrated?

MINOR THEME #1: _____

Where is this illustrated?

MINOR THEME #2: _____

Where is this illustrated?
