

**Standards Focus: Theme and Anticipation/Reaction Guide**  
**Chapters Eighteen-Nineteen**

**Theme** is the central idea in a work of literature. The theme of a piece of literature should not be confused with the subject of the work, but rather, it is a *general statement about life or human nature*. Most themes are not completely obvious and must be inferred by the reader. The reader must take a good look at the characters, plot, setting, mood, even the title, and how they work together, to understand and recognize the reasons the author wrote this particular piece of literature.

*Directions: Now that you have read the entire novel, your teacher will hand back your original responses to the statements on the Anticipation/Reaction Guide. Re-read the statements, answering the "After Reading" column just as you did earlier. Reflect on the title, characters, plot, setting, and mood of **Bud, Not Buddy** to answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper.*

1. Looking back at your original responses on your Anticipation/Reaction Guide, how many of your responses have changed? Which ones? Why do you think your response(s) have changed?
2. Describe an important part of the novel that affected you or made you think differently after reading.
3. Talk to some of your classmates about the following statements from the Anticipation/Reaction Guide. Which of these are important themes in the novel?
  - a. It is important to everyone to have a family.
  - b. Running away is not a good option.
  - c. We never forget loved ones who have died.
  - d. Poverty affects all races.
  - e. There was a time in American history when many people were not able to find jobs and were homeless.
  - f. All orphans want to be adopted by a good family.
  - g. Humor can be a helpful skill for survival.
4. What do you think is the main theme of the novel? Why?
5. Do the themes of *Bud, Not Buddy* remind you of any other novels, short stories, or poems you have read? In 3-4 sentences, write about how that novel, short story, or poem reminds you of the themes in *Bud, Not Buddy*.