

Standards Focus: Theme

Chapters 10-12

Theme is the central idea or message in a work of literature. Because theme is so important to a piece of literature, the title, plot, characters, setting, and mood, all creatively work together to create a message from the author to the reader. There can be one major theme in a work, or the novel can have several underlying themes. In *The Outsiders*, there are several themes.

Directions: For numbers 1-3, find and copy an example from the text that illustrates the given theme from *The Outsiders*. For examples 4-6, state the theme for each quote from the text. Try to write your theme in sentence form.

1. Theme: It is important for teenagers to feel like they are loved and supported.

Example: _____

2. Theme: Loyalty is important in any relationship.

Example: _____

3. Theme: Looks can be deceiving. Don't judge a book by its cover.

Example: _____

4. Theme: _____

Example: "We gotta win that fight tonight," Dally said. His voice was hard. "We gotta get even with the Socs. For Johnny."

5. Theme: _____

Example: "Just don't forget that some of us watch the sunset too."

6. Theme: _____

Example: "You know," Johnny said slowly, "I never noticed colors and clouds and stuff until you kept reminding me about them. It seems like they were never there before."