

## “Theme” Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Chastain’s Class  
General Smallwood Middle School Charles County, Maryland

1	Good morning, class.	20	Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
All	Good morning, _____.	1	[relieved] Thank you! Now you get it?
1	Does anybody know what “theme” means?	All	Sure! Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
2	Oooh, I do! A theme has to have a lot of action and death!	1	Excellent! Now how about some examples?
All	Action! [sound effect] [gesture] Death! [sound effect] [gesture]	2	Oh! Oh! Like in <u>The Iditarod Trail</u> —A challenge can be difficult, but rewarding.
3	No, you don’t understand! A theme is a song that starts a show.	1	Yes!
All	[Hum “Jeopardy” theme song]	All	[sound effect] [gesture—congratulating #16]
4	That’s a theme song! A theme is like what you choose for a dance	3	And in <u>The Outsiders</u> —Life for teens is hard, but you can get through it.
5	Oh! Like the eighth grade dance theme—“Can’t Fight the Moonlight!”	4	You really can make it through teen pregnancies, family fights,
6	Or a theme park! Like Busch Gardens	5	Abuse, and drugs.
7	Kings Dominion	6	Or in <u>The Midwife’s Apprentice</u> where Brat becomes Dung Beetle, then Beetle, then Brat, then Alyce.
8	Watercountry USA	7	[not understanding] Help me out here.....
9	Six Flags	8	As time goes on, people call the main character different names.
All	Disneyworld!	9	Her changing name goes along with the inner changes in her.
1	No, a theme....	10	So the theme is “Perseverance.”
10	...is a title!	1	Remember—you should be able to state the theme or the “big idea” in a sentence.
1	Stop! You’re all wrong! I mean a theme in literature!	11	As time goes on, if you don’t give up, you can reach your goals.
All	Ohhhhhh, a theme in literature! [gesture]	7	Got it.
1	[sound effect] A theme is the major idea or ideas that the writer presents about life in general through the vehicle of the story.	12	Oh! How about <u>The Island of the Blue Dolphin</u> ? Karana survived all those years alone on that island.
11	Vehicle as in car? [laughs at own joke...]	13	So the theme could be...
12	No! It’s the main point of the novel	All	Survival! [gesture] [sound effect]
13	book	1	Sentence, please.
14	story		
15	movie		
16	poem		
17	play		
18	song		
19	or TV show.		

14	Learn from your past and stay hopeful about your future and you will be a survivor.	All	[sound effect]
		1	What about a play?
15	<u>Survivor!</u> I love that TV show!	19	<u>Romeo and Juliet!</u> – Secret relationships can end in sorrow.
1	Great. What’s its theme?	All	[sound effect]
16	It’s “Deception, greed, and betrayal will earn you a million dollars.”	1	A song?
All	Ch-ching!	20	Stray Cat Strut sings one that says “Sometimes you just have to be laid back and relaxed.”
1	Anyone know a movie theme?		
17	Me! In <u>Spiderman</u> , it’s “With great power comes great responsibility.”	1	[sound effect—sigh!] Yes! Now does everybody get what Theme is?
1	How about a poem?	All	Theme is the lesson, the moral, or the message.
18	Oh! Remember “Nothing Gold Can Stay?” Its theme is “Nothing Lasts Forever.”	1	Class dismissed!