



**Worksheet Instructions:**

1. Select a short story from the list below, another grade-level story, or a grade-level novel.
2. Answer each question about theme.
3. Submit the completed worksheet to your Flex course.

***Suggested Short Stories:***

- “Flowers for Algernon,” Daniel Keyes
- “The Inn of Lost Times,” Lensey Namioka
- “The Landlady,” Roald Dahl
- “The Medicine Bag,” Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve
- “The Monkey’s Paw,” W.W. Jacobs
- “The Moustache,” Robert Cormier
- “The Necklace,” Guy de Maupassant
- “The Open Window,” Saki
- “The Ransom of Red Chief,” O. Henry
- “There Will Come Soft Rains,” Ray Bradbury
- “The Tell-Tale Heart,” Edgar Allan Poe
- “The Treasure of Lemon Brown” Walter Dean Myers

***Some Common Themes to Look for:***

- |               |            |            |                  |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Childhood     | Courage    | Death      | Faith            |
| Family        | Freedom    | Friendship | Growing Up       |
| Hate          | Hope       | Identity   | Independence     |
| Justice       | Love       | Loyalty    | Nature           |
| Patience      | Patriotism | Prejudice  | Self-improvement |
| Self-reliance | Success    | Trust      | Truth            |
| Unhappiness   | Violence   | War        |                  |



**Title of Short Story/Novel** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

1. In a short paragraph, provide a summary of the story (*should be a different story than the one used in Worksheet 1*).

2. Discovering Theme

<b>Big Idea that the story is about</b>	<b>How the title relates to the story</b>	<b>Important lessons about life that readers learn</b>

## 3. Theme and Plot

List most important events	Tell how these events are tied together	Tell what these events have in common

## 4. Theme and Character

Name of main character	Significant things that the character says and does	What the character's actions suggest about people in general

## 5. Theme and Setting

Description of setting	Atmosphere created by the setting	How the setting connects to the theme

## 6. Support for Theme

<b>Theme (big idea):</b>		
<b>Reason One (what helped me identify the theme?)</b>	<b>Reason Two (what helped me identify the theme?)</b>	<b>Reason Three (what helped me identify the theme?)</b>
<b>Other texts I've read with the same theme:</b>		