

Name: _____

Period: _____

Literary Focus: Theme

A story's **theme** is the main idea, the insight about life and human experience that an author expresses in a work. It is the general truth about life that the author tries to communicate.

A theme may be **directly stated** in a sentence or a paragraph, or it may be **implied**. When a theme is implied, you must consider all of the elements (title, plot, character, setting, point of view) to understand the story's theme.

Use the following checklist to discover the theme of a short story.

Title _____ **Author** _____

CHECKLIST	NOTES
1. What ideas does the story's title suggest?	
2. What do the events and conflicts in the plot reveal about life in general?	
3. What does the main character learn about life during the story?	
4. How does the main character change as a result of the events in the story?	
5. What view of the world do the setting and its details offer us?	
6. What view of life does the narrator present?	

7. Is the theme **directly stated** in the story? _____ If so, write the sentence or two in which the theme is stated

8. Is the theme **implied**? _____ If so, state it in one or two sentences the idea about life or people that the author expresses.