

WRITING A STATEMENT OF THEME

Follow these steps to write an effective thematic statement.

The **THEME** is a complete sentence that expresses a universal truth.

This means that the theme of a story or poem is not something specific to that story or poem.

You could have the same theme for many stories or poems.

STEP ONE: Determine the **SUBJECT** of the poem.

Theme ≠ Subject

But you can use the subject to find the theme.

1) Answer the following question in 1-3 words.

What is the piece about?

Do not include in your answer anything specific to only that piece like characters or setting.

STEP TWO: Determine the author's **MESSAGE**.

The author is giving a message about the **SUBJECT**.

2) Answer the next question.

What does the author think about _____ **?**
(your answer to question #1)

STEP THREE: Write a **COMPLETE SENTENCE**.

THEME should be written in a complete sentence.

3) Complete the following sentence to answer question #2

The author thinks/believes that _____

STEP FOUR: **EDIT** the sentence.

Now cross out ~~the author thinks/believes that~~ and you will have the **THEME** of the poem.