

# How To Write a Theme Statement

Ms. Toth

English 9

# How to write a theme statement

- **THEME:** A theme is a message or main idea that the writer wants the reader to remember after reading his/her work. Most stories, plays, novels, and poems have more than one theme.
- A theme statement is one or two sentences that describes the theme/message of a piece of literature

# What is a theme NOT?

1. A theme is not ONE WORD. That is a topic.

Bad example 1: The theme was love. NO!

2. A theme is not a definition

Bad example 2: Love is when you have feelings for someone. NO!

3. A theme is not specifically about one story or character; rather, it is universal.

Bad example 3: Greasers and Socs don't get along. NO!

# Some GOOD Examples

Topic: Love

Theme: Unconditional love withstands any obstacle.

Topic: Hope

Theme: Hope can help a person to survive any dark time.

Topic: Courage

Theme: It is important to have courage to express your individuality.

Topic: Jealousy

Theme: Jealousy can cause lasting damage to individuals and relationships.

## Step 2: Write a statement based on your topic

### Helpful reminders

- ❖ A THEME is a statement about a topic
- ❖ Theme involves making a point about a topic
- ❖ If your topic was racism, your thematic statement might be: racism is caused by ignorance and insecurity