# Pathways to a Theme

**When you have read your chosen story, respond to the following questions:**

1. What is happening in the story? Answer in point form or full sentences.

-Two friends find a pair of shoes. They do not know who shoud take the pair so they decide to share. One day one of the girls will get the pair and the next they will switch. At the end one of the girls is chosen to go to America. The girl gets a new pair of shoes so she gives her one shoe to her friend. But her friend wants her to remember her so she took one of the shoes to America.

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

-Two girls do not have shoes. One day they both find one shoe of a pair. They do not know who should get the pair so they decide to share.

1. Brainstorm words or phrases that connect to the class discussion on the human condition.

-When the two girls found the sandals they didn’t fight the other to get the second shoe. They decided they would share. This is commn human nature because they are looking out for eachother and sharing to make sure the other is taken care of.

-“Everyone pushed and fought for the best clothes.” This quote shows that in certain situation people will fight for themselves and make sure they are in the best and ideal condition.

1. **What are 2-3 the theme or big idea of the story? Create a theme statement**.

-You can create a theme statement by using the formula **topic+treatment (+/-) = result**. Eg. In Macbeth, one could say that “ambition + too much = destruction”. Therefore the theme statement would be “*Too much ambition can lead to destruction*”

**-A theme statement has** **no absolutes, no cliches and no conversational language**. Eg. “*I think its to never judge a book by its cover”* **is NOT a good theme statement.**

Topic **relationships** + treatment(+/-) **materials** = result **generous**

Theme Statement

**-“Relationships can make you not think about materialistic things.”**

Topic **memories** + treatment(+/-) **sacrifice** = result **hard to let go**

Theme Statement

**Sacrificing something that holds memories can make it harder to let go.**

1. **Change the theme statements into a deep questions.** Eg. *What can be the result of too much ambition?* OR *Can too much ambition lead to destruction?*

**“Can caring for others put yourself in a worse situation?”**

**-“At what point should you care about yourself and not share with others in critical conditions?”**