

Name _____

Book Title _____

Date _____

Author _____

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.

2. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

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

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4. **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 _____ + treatment(+/-) _____ = result _____

Theme Statement

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Theme Statement

Topic _____ + treatment(+/-) _____ = result _____

Theme Statement

5. **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?*
