# 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.

* - Ramon loved to draw
* - His older brother Liam made fun of his work which made him frustrated

- He crumpled up his drawings

- His sister saw meaning in his work which inspired him to draw and write again

- He started to draw things that looked real

- He continued to draw and write and live his life

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

Person vs. Person – His brother was making fun of him

Person vs. Self – Being hard on himself

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

Human Nature –

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: judgement + treatment(+/-): too much = result: self doubt

Theme Statement:

Too much judegement can make someone feel self con

Topic: confidence + treatment(+/-): lack of = result: frustration

Theme Statement:

Having no confidence can make you frustrated

Topic: you + treatment(+/-): being = result: confidence

Theme Statement:

If you be yourself it was help with your confidence

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 too much judgement give you self doubt?

Could lack of confidence cause you to become frustrated?

If you be yourself will it help your confidence?