# 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.

-A lion fixes a birds wing when he falls

-he spends the winter with the bird

-the bird flies back with his familly when spring comes

-The lion is afraid that the bird doesn’t come back

-but the bird comes back for another winter

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

Person vs. Person (lion vs. Bird), person vs. self (lion vs. lion)

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

Friendship, worry, caring, doubt, loving

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 \_\_caring\_\_\_ + treatment(+/-) \_\_\_\_having fun\_\_\_\_\_ = result \_\_\_\_friendship\_\_\_\_

Theme Statement

Friendship is about caring and having fun with each other

Topic \_\_\_doubt\_\_\_\_ + treatment(+/-) \_\_\_love\_\_\_\_ = result \_\_\_eternal friendship\_\_\_\_

Theme Statement

Even though we doubt, love can give an eternal friendship

Topic \_\_\_loneliness\_\_\_\_ + treatment(+/-) \_\_Friendship\_\_\_ = result \_\_\_happiness\_\_\_\_

Theme Statement

Loneliness can be cured with friendship

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?*
2. When you love soomething do you let it go or keep it for yourself?
3. Can helping someone in need change your life for the good or the bad?
4. Why does friendship cure a lonely heart?

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