# 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.

Unhei moved from South Korea to America. When she arrived on her first day of school she told all the kids her name. But none of them could pronounce it and they also made fun of her name. Unhei decided she wanted a new American name. Her mom told her that just because they moved doesn’t mean they have to forget about their culture. She went threw a lot of names but none of them felt right. Her new friend, Joey, liked her new name which made Unhei feel better. When it came time for Unhei to announce her new name she decided to keep her Korean name. All the kids tried and succeded pronouncing her name.

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

Unhei arrived in America but she felt out of place with her name. Her classmates made fun of her name. But when she was going through new names none of them felt right to her.

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

**“I don’t want to be different from all the American kids.”**

-Everybody wants to fit in. Nobody wants to feelmlike they don’t belong.

When Unhei showed Joey her name he said, **“Wow, that’s beautiful.”**

-When Joey said this Unhei felt very happy. I think she felt a little relieved and comforted because she felt she was accepted by someone in America. Because before this everyone was making fun of her name but now that someone complimented her she could feel recognized.

-This relates to human nature because everybody wants to feel accepted by their peers.

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 **acception** + treatment(+/-) **wanting** = result **dissapointment**

Theme Statement

**“Wanting acception can lead to dissapointment.”**

Topic **change** + treatment(+/-) **too much** = result **question uniqueness**

Theme Statement

**“Too much change can question uniqueness.”**

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 change lead to lose of culture/background?**