# 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 moves from korea to america
* Her grandma gives her a stamp
* She gets made fun of because of her name
* She wants to find a new name so that she can fit in
* All the kids decide to help her by making a name jar
* Everyone helps by putting tons of names in the jar
* Her interactions with Mr. Kim help her realize that her name is unique
* Her friend Joey also helps her realize that her name is special
* One day the jar goes missing so she decides to introduce herself to her classmates using her original name
* Everyone in the class learn how to say her name and decide that it is a cool name
* Joey then comes to Unhei’s house and gives her back the name jar
* Joey introduces his new nickname Chinku meaning friend

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

Person vs. Self – Her debating if she wants to change her name

Person vs. Person – Unhei getting made fun of

Person vs. Society – Unhei trying to fit in with Americans

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

Human Nature – most people feel the urge to try to fit in and try to change their selves just to seem “normal”

Human Society – When people are different society can sometimes feel the need judge them

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: Trying to be someone who you’re not

Theme Statement:

Too much judgement can result in trying to be someone that you’re not

Topic: realization + treatment(+/-): loving yourself = result: acceptence

Theme Statement: Realizing that you love yourself can help you to be become more accepted

Topic: stress + treatment(+/-): too much = result: making hard decisions

Theme Statement: Too much stress can result in making hard decisions you might regret

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?*

1: Can too much judgement can result in trying to be someone you’re not?

2: Can realizing that you love yourself help you feel more accepted?

3: Could too much stress result in making hard decisions?