# 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.

* The lion is working on his garden when he hears a sound.
* The lion discovers an injured bird.
* As he tried to help the bird, the birds pack flew away.
* The lion takes the bird back to his house.
* The lions feeds him, gives him warmth and takes care of him.
* They soon become good friends.
* Then spring comes along and the bird flew away with his pack.
* The lion is now all alone
* Autmun returns and the bird decides to fly back to the lions house for winter.

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

The conflict is spring. When spring comes the bird must fly away with his gang and leave the lion byhimself until winter.

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

How does one cope with loss: the lion copes with the loss of how the bird leaves him every autumn.

What leads to happiness: the lion patiently waits until the bird returns to spend time with him and that gives him his happiness.

How does one manage stress and expectations: the lion continues his daily routine of farming, cleaning, eating etc. to cope with the stress of nothaving anyone to communicate with. The lion lives alone so there are no expectations form anyone, only his own expectations.

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 patience + treatment(+/-) productivity = happiness

Theme Statement

patience can lead to productivity that will ultimatly lead to happiness.

Topic lonliness + treatment(+/-) too much = result depression

Theme Statement

Too much loneliness can lead to depression

Topic loyalty + treatment(+/-) to others = a heathly relationship

Theme Statement

Loyalty to others is a key factor to a healthy relationship.

**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?*

**Is there such a thing as being too lonely or just wanting to be left alone?**

**Can being too loyal a bad thing?**

**Can being loyal to others lead to depression?**

**Can patience really lead to happiness?**

**Is there such a thing as too much patience?**

**Can not being loyal still maintain a relationship?**