# 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.

***This book brings awareness to children around the world about the violent wars against drugs wars that happen in Mexico.***

1. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

***Person vs Society. Children living with violence.***

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

***-War***

***-Peace***

***-Bullying***

***-Dreams***

***-Crime***

***-Harrasment***

***-Fear***

***-Violence***

***-Gangs***

***-Corruption***

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: Peace+ treatment(+/-) Not ***enough = War***

Theme Statement

***Not enough peace can lead to war.***

***Topic: Reliability + treatment(+/-) Not enough = Corruption***

Theme Statement

***Not enough reliability can lead to corruption.***

***Topic: Forgiveness + treatment(+/-) Too much = Vulnerability***

Theme Statement

***Too much forgiveness can lead to vulnerability***.

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?*
* ***How can we create more peace to prevet warr?***
* ***How can not enough reliability lead to corruption?***
* ***Can too much forgiveness lead to vulnerability?***