

Name Mrs. Thomassen

Book Title Red: A Crayon's Story

Date Jan. 30 '16

Author Michael Hall

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 blue crayon has a red covering
- Everyone assumes it is red because it says so on its label but it colours blue
- His family and his friends and others all try to change it or fix it to be the colour on its label
- It meets a friend who lets it be blue and it succeeds and everyone accepts it now

2. Identify and describe the conflict in the story.

(character vs character)

- other crayons do not accept his true colour
- even his family does not accept who he is
- crayons try to change it (character vs character)
- can't do anything right (character vs self)

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

- acceptance
- self-acceptance
- diversity
- need to fit in, belong

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4. What are 2-3 the themes 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 Acceptance + treatment(+/-) lack of = result insecurity

Theme Statement

Not being accepted for who you are can lead to
insecurity, but friendship may help one find their identity.

Topic Labelling + treatment(+/-) too much = result unacceptance

Theme Statement

Judging someone based on their label can
be hurtful but if one ignores it, it may lead to acceptance.

Topic Friendship + treatment(+/-) accepting = result new perspective

Theme Statement

Sometimes friends can provide a fresh perspective
on identity.

5. 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 labels hurt?

• What is the effect of labelling?

• What is the effect of not accepting one for who they are?

• How does one accept their own identity and that of others?