

Theme Graphic Organizer

Move from repeated story details to a defensible theme statement supported by evidence.

Name: _____

Date: _____

STORY / TEXT

IMPORTANT DETAIL 1

IMPORTANT DETAIL 2

IMPORTANT DETAIL 3

IMPORTANT DETAIL 4

WHAT DO THESE DETAILS SUGGEST?

THEME STATEMENT

Write a message about life or people—not a one-word topic.

EVIDENCE CHECK

Which two details best support the theme, and how do they connect?

Theme — Guided

GUIDED VERSION

Name: _____ Date: _____

TOPIC

Name a broad topic in one or two words.

DETAIL / EVENT 1

What reveals something about the topic?

DETAIL / EVENT 2

What strengthens or complicates the idea?

THEME STATEMENT

Write a complete idea, not a single word.

EXPLAIN

How do the details support that theme?

Theme Organizer — Completed Example

Original mini-story: "The Borrowed Bike" · Details lead to a theme statement; the theme is not a one-word topic.

DETAIL 1

Nina borrows her cousin's bike after promising to return it before dinner.

DETAIL 2

She takes a muddy shortcut to save time and bends the front fender.

DETAIL 3

Nina considers hiding the damage but turns around and tells her cousin what happened.

DETAIL 4

Her cousin is upset, but agrees to repair the bike with her after Nina offers to pay for the part.

PATTERN / WHAT THE DETAILS SUGGEST

Nina's shortcut creates the problem, but accepting responsibility gives her a way to repair both the bike and the trust she risked.

THEME STATEMENT

Taking responsibility for a mistake can rebuild trust more effectively than trying to avoid the consequences.

EVIDENCE CHECK — WHY THESE DETAILS SUPPORT THE THEME

Strongest evidence: Nina chooses to admit the damage instead of hiding it, and her cousin agrees to work with her on the repair. The first detail shows the moment of responsibility; the second shows that honesty creates a path toward restored trust. Together they support the full theme statement rather than only the topic "honesty."