

Today We Learned (T.W.L.)

In class today, we learned that a story is more than just what happened (the plot); it also has a Theme, which is what it means about life.

Theme: The central message, moral, or life lesson the author wants you to understand. It is always stated as a complete sentence. | *Theme: Honesty is rewarded*.

Topic: The general subject of the story, usually stated in one or two words. | *Topic: Honesty, Dogs, Family*.

Plot | The sequence of events that happens in the story (The "What"). | Plot: The boy lied to the villagers about the wolf.

Review

- We practiced finding the theme in classic fables like "The Boy Who Cried Wolf", and even the short "Dug's Special Mission". Here are the steps we used:
 - o Summarize the Plot: What were the main events of the story? (The boy cried wolf three times.)
 - Identify the Conflict/Outcome: What was the problem, and how did it end? (The boy lied, and when a real wolf came, no one believed him.)
 - o Determine the Universal Lesson (Theme): What general truth does this teach us about trust?
 - o Theme: If you constantly lie, people won't believe you, even when you tell the truth.

Key Takeaway: The T.A.D. Method

Remember these essential rules for identifying the Theme:

- A theme must be a full statement or lesson (e.g., Don't be greedy), not just a word (e.g., Greed).
- A theme is a lesson that applies to everyone, not just the characters in the story.
- The theme must be directly supported by details from the text or film

Homework: See "Homework Packet"

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