## **TEACHING THEME** READ & RESPOND TASK CARDS

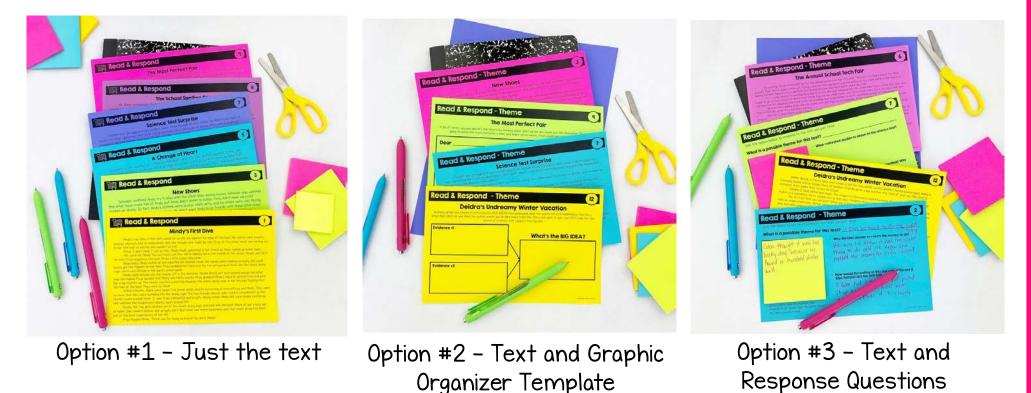
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### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

This resource includes 20 reading task cards that contain short fiction passages that will help you teach, practice, and reinforce how to identify the theme of a text.

### Task cards can be printed in three different ways.



\*Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.\*

# **Option #I - Just the Text**

One of the printing options for the task cards is to print JUST the text. Each task card has a short non-fiction reading passages (takes up half a page). The passages lend themselves to identifying and understanding the theme, but you really could use them to teach any fiction skill.



- This set of task cards is ideal if you want to use them in the "traditional" task card way.
- I suggest printing them on cardstock and either putting them all on a book ring or in a photo box.
- There are 3 options of reading response sheets included so students can read the passages and respond on a separate page.

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## Option #2 - Passage & Graphic Organizer

One of the printing options includes the passage and a graphic organizer template. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.

- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students thinking about theme.
- On the back, there is a graphic organizer template that will help students think about the theme of the story.



\*Digital versions are included for all three sets of task cards.\*

### Option #3 - Passage & Response Questions

One of the printing options includes the passage and reading response questions. These task cards can be printed front and back and work great in a center, as part of your small group instruction, or even for guided practice.



- On the front of each task card is a short reading passage (the same numbers and titles as option #1).
- The bottom of each task card includes a few questions to prompt students thinking about theme.
- On the back, there is space for a sticky note so students can jot down their thinking about the text. There are also two text-based comprehension questions.

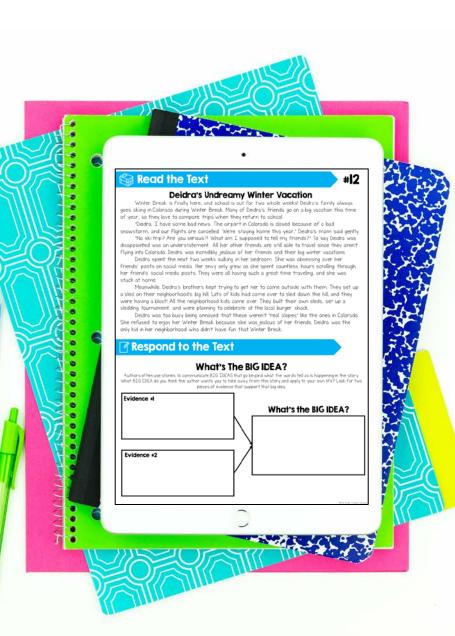
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# **Includes Digital Versions**

I love to provide both print and digital options in my resources. This resource includes a digital version created using Google Slides.

There are three different digital versions included (to match the three different printing options).

- Option 1: The text with a generic space for student response.
- Option 2: The text with the graphic organizer at the bottom (this one is pictured to the right)
- Option 3: The text with the text-based comprehension questions on the bottom.



### THE STELLAR TEACHER COMPANY

### A LOOK INSIDE...(option I)

### 🗽 Read & Respond

### Mindy's First Dive

Mindy's hair blew in the solty acean air as she sat against the edge of the boat. Her polimis were sweaty, and her stomach had so many knots that she thought she might be side. Priya, on the other hand, was smilling ear to ear. She was so excited she couldn't sit still.

Tryp, I don't think I can do this. Mindy Finally admitted to her Finend as tears welled up in her eyes. Oh, come on Mindy You can thack out now Were Hendy out in the middle of the accosin Please, just do it for met Prixip begad as she gave Mindy a UHE puppy dag smile. Relactently, Mindy suited up and adjusted the soundk I mands. Her hands were shaking so badix, she could

Relactantly, Mindy suited up and adjusted her snorkel mask. Her hands were shaking so bally, she could barely get the flippers on her fest. Priva grabbed her hand and the two girls jumped down into the shark dving cage, which was already in the warm, acean water.

Mindy could already see the sharks off in the distance. Mayber they flush turn around and ge the other way, she hoped. Phys sensed that Mindy was really scared. Phys grabbed Mindy's hand to confort her and gave her a big thurdes up. This sharks alread awaring towards the metal during cage to eat the built floating near the side of the bost. They were so close! Within multes, there were a close!

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This hage a time, that you to being to branch to and it, thing

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### The Unluckiest Luckiest Day

Glen walked home from school every day, but Thursday was different. Glen wound up \$100 richer on Thursday, On the way home, Glen found a one-hundred-dallar bill blowing in the wind by the sidewalk. He ran up to catch it. He couldn't believe it! He was almost home when he found it, but there was no one around. Glen was so excited - it was his lucky day!

Read & Respond

Glen ran horne, grabbe gornes. I can't believe I got He woke up the next m next door neighbor, Jill Jill w something. Glen walched for Fijust don't know wha yesterday. That was suppose the one she has now I work. Glen felt terrible. His lu havy heart, Glen told the return the money to Jill. Jill drivinked with excith

Science Test Surprise Jayden was strugging in his science class. Even though he was folling, he didn't have time to study for their upcoming test over cell processes. Who cares about endocytosis and exocytosis anyways? He had better things to do, like play his video games.

You better pass your science test tomorrow, young man. Otherwise, no phone, no games, and no internet this weekend, "threatened Jaydem's dad. Jayden thought long and hard about this. He knew he couldn't survive the entire weekend without the internet or his cell phone! He knew nothing about cell processes. He hadn't paid attention

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all week. The tests were distributed, and Javden felt anxious Before the teacher passed out the

tests, he law his notebook opened under his feet. When his teacher wosn't looking, he snuck glances at his notes.

He got an Al His teacher was so proud because Jayden hodn't passed a science test all year. She immediately called Jaydem's dad to tell him the goad news. His teacher even toak him to his other teachers to brag about his goad grade in science. Jayden got so much attention for doing such a good jab. It seemed like everyone went out of their way to congratulate him.

Because you did so well on your test, I want you to help me tutor some of the other students on Monday. "his teacher exclaimed. Jayden felt a pit in his stomach. He couldn't help but worder if his teacher knew he cheated. It's a good thing he would have his phane and the internet over the weekend, it looked like he was actually going to have to study science for once.

### 📃 Read & Respond

### A Big Win for Malachi

Going to casinos was Malachi's favorite thing to do on the weekends. In fact, it's why he decided to move the Las Vegas, Nevada - it's the casino capital of Americal

This particular weekend, Malachi and his friends were at their favorite casino in Vegas. Malachi separated from his friends, so he could play one of his favorite card games. He was winning money. Ike usual On his way back to find his friends, he strubiled across a poker chip lying on the floor. As he got closer, he realized it was a chip worth \$1,000. In this casino, people play with poker chips instead of cash. They usually cash in their poker chips before they ao home.

Malachi picked up the \$1,000 paker chip in owe He looked around and saw no one nearby. Unsure of what to do, he went straight to his friends to shore his good luck His friends were all jealous. Molachi was already winning lots of money, and now he was \$1,000 richer just by walking around. The excitement of Malachi's friends made him feel a little guilty. This wasn't his money the didn't win it, and he certainly didn't earn it.

He excused himself from his friends and headed to the cosino's secretary. He reported the \$1,000 poker chip as found, and turned it in. The secretary was shocked by Malachi's honesty. She was so impressed with Malachi that she give him \$50 in return for this honesty.

### 🔚 Read & Respond

### New Shoes

Solvador watched Andy try to play with the other bays during recess. Solvador also watched the other bays make fun of Andy, but Andy dian't seem to notice. Andy dian't have very nice clothes or shoes. In fact, Andy's clothes were always really dirty, and his shoes were way too big.

Solvador made Friends with Andy He didn't want Andy to be Friends with those other boys because they were so mean to him. Solvador made it a paint to get to know Andy and even encouraged his other friends to do the same. Turns out that Andy's moon couldn't af ford to buy him new clothes or shoes this school year. Andy has to wear his older brother's hand-me-downs. That's why nothing if him auute right.

Salvador thought about Andy a lot. On the way to school Salvador asked his dad, "Can we go shopping after school today?"

"Sure son, what do you need?" Salvador's dad asked nonchalantly.

"I want to spend my savings on a new Friend I made at school." Salvadar filled his dad in on Andys situation: "I want to buy him a new pair of shoes." The next day, Andy got his new pair of shoes. Solvador made sure he gave them to Andy in

The next day, Andy got his new par of shoes. Salvador made sure he gave them to Andy in private. He didn't want to embarrass him, and Salvador didn't need anyone else to know that he gave Andy the shoes. Salvador was giving this gift for Andy's happiness, not for attention.

Andy, Salvador, and Salvador's circle of friends become really close that year. They were best friends for a long time.

### Read & Respond

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### The Road to Recovery

The storm had Finally passed. If was the First huminance to hit the town of Wills in a long time near 1967, to be exact Most people executed a few days aga, but Kristy, her family, and a few other neighbors stoppd behind. The man and wind finally stormed so neurone stank beans rooma nuture their burses. The

### Read & Respond

### The Most Perfect Pair

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Ariana and her mother were out shapping on Saturday, like usual. While they were at the ty at store, Ariana bought herself some earnings. She spent \$18 on this new pair of earnings. She her wasn't in low with them, but she hatde lawing a store without buying anything.

Nexts if in love winn intern, our see nated leaving a state without pulling unigning. Nexts is talked her mother into stopping for frazor yogurt. Aftina a convinced her to stop because she said she would pay for her own. After the earrings and the Frozen yogurt, Ariana had board \$20 left.

Aniana's more decided to make a last-minute stop at a local boutique. Aniana found the most perfect pair of shoes at the boutique! They were exactly what she didn't know she

needed! They would go perfectly with the dress she bought last weekend. Ariana put them on and pranced around the store. She was in love until she looked at the price tog. The shoes were \$40, and Ariana only had \$20 left.

\*Mom, I have to have these shoes! Can we go back and return the earrings, so I have enough money?\* Ariana pleaded with her mother.

"No, Ariana. Even if we return those earrings, you still won't have enough to buy the shoes. Remember the frazen yagur? You should have saved your money from today if you knew you wanted to buy shoes to match your dress," her mother explained. "Maybe you can start soving again and we can come back in a few weeks."

### 🔝 Read & Respond

### The Secret to Survival

### The sect er to sol vival

Jonathan and his family travel all over the world on their saliboat He and his family have lived on the saliboat since Jonathan was seven years add He is thirteen now and wants to try surviving on a descried sland for a week! He knows he can do it because he has lots of experience with slands. He knows have to fish for food, build a campire, build a shelter, and identify signs of bad weather. He knows all the skills to survive on a descrited island.

After beging his parents for months, and coming up with a survival and safety plan, they finally agree and Janothan begins his adventure with ninv a few interns life knows he needs to safe up shelter. This fload for dinner, and make sure he had a good water source. But he is so excited for his adventure he decides to relax and table it all in before he gets to work. He puts up his harmonda and gets aut his back. He spends there harmonds, while Istering to the cost news. This is the life! After a while, he takes a rap. He spends must be file advences universe.

This formation in the generation of the second seco

Jonathan was unable to catch any Fish for dinner, and he was unable to build his shelter before it got to: dark. Man. this is harder than I thought he grumbles to himself. He was almost asleep when it began to rain.

Jonathan spent ha night hungry, soaked, and annoved lik was annoved at himself. All that three he spent reading and relaxing, he should have spent preparing for diver and for nightfall ke should have paid more attention to the weather, too. Jonathan had all the skills for this adventure, but his confidence and laziness gat in the war.

### 🕫 Read & Respond

### A Change of Heart

Harper's mann warked as a fashian designer, and she was pretty good at it. Her job allowed Harper and her morn to move all the way fram a small town in Texas to New York. City - the fashian capital of Americal When Harper was little (around ten), she loved that her morn warked all the time. Harper got to stay home with the namy, who was so much more fun to play with. Plus, every time her morn aven kome From a work trip, she would bring Harper a present. Over the years, she got clothes from Mian, makeup from downtown New York, signed albums from Atlanta, a beach trip to Mami (without her morn), and an allowance that was practically endless!

Now that Harper is seventeen, she feels a little differently. She really misses her morn. At first, she loved all the space and freedom, and she definitely loved the gifts. Now, though, she would give anything to just spend some time with her morn. She is realizing that she will be leaving for college next year and that she's barely spent any time with her morn since she was ten years old. Karper decides to write her morn a letter. In her letter, she explains how much she appreciates all the hard work her morn does and how she does a great job taking care of her. She also explains that it makes her really sad spending most of her time alone or with her friends, knowing shell be leaving for college son. She explains that she misses her morn and that o amount of gifts can replace their quality time toether.

### 🛛 Read & Respond

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### The Annual School Tech Fair

Tis and Mya decide to partner up for the annual school tech fair this year. They are creating a movie for their project. Their Film is about a little girt. Tanva, who lost her dag but Found him sitting on the front parch after hours of loaking for him Mya's house is perfect for Filming because she has a perch and a dag. Fida. Tis is really excited to participate in the tech fair this year because her old school ddn't have a tech fair.

Read & Respond

🔤 Read & Respond

### The School Spelling Bee

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Mr Rixon announces that two students will represent his class for the upcoming School son Spelling Bee. Bath Jordan and Cesar are chosen for the School Spelling Bee, and they have exactly one week to prepare!

rs n Cesar spends his whole week studying the Spelling List Packet Mr. Rixon gave him. He even it is has his morn practice with him every day on the way to school and an the way home. Cesar has first his big brother quiz him on the spelling words while they play basketball outside. He definitely way works to win the School Spelling Beel way and the school Spelling Beel

Jordan, on the other hand, spends his whole week relaxing He doesn't need to study new because he has a secret weapon - his lucky socks) Jordan is confident that his lucky socks will help him win the School Spelling Bee. After all, it was his lucky socks that helped him kick the winning goal in the soccer tournament last year.

On the day of the School Spelling Bee, Cesar and Jordan both stand on the stage with all the other kids. Cesar goes first and easily gets his word correct. Jordan is next and is wigging his toes in his lucky socks. He gets a word that he's never even heard of! Since he's never heard of it, he certainly can't spell it! Jordan gets cut on the First round.

Feeling disappointed, Jordan realizes his lucky socks failed him. Cesar wan the School Spelling Beel Turns out the word that Jordan had never heard of was on the Spelling List Packet Mr. Rixon gave him to study.

### Deidra's Undreamy Winter Vacation

Winter Break is finally here, and school is out for two whole weeks! Deidra's family always goes sking in Colorado during Winter Break. Many of Deidra's friends go on a big vacation this time of year, so they love to compose trips when they return to school.

"Deidra, I have some bad news. The airport in Colorado is closed because of a bad snowstorm and our flights are cancelled. We're staying home this year." Deidra's mom said gently.

No ski trip? Are you serious?! What am I supposed to tell my friends?" To say Deidra was disappointed was an understatement. All her other friends are still able to travel since they aren't flying into Colorado Deidra was incredibly jealous of her friends and their big winter vacations.

Dedra spent the next two weeks suking in her bedroom. She was obsessing over her friends' posts on sacial media. Her envy only grew as she spent countless hours scrolling through her friend's social media posts. They were all having such a great time traveling, and she was stuck at home.

Meanwhile. Deidra's brothers kept trying to get her to come outside with them. They set up a sled on their neighborhood's big hill. Lot's of Rids had come over to sled down the hill, and they were having a blast! All the neighborhood kids come over. They built their own sleds, set up a sledding tournament, and were planning to celebrate at the local burger shack.

Deidra was too busy being annayed that these weren't 'real slopes' like the ones in Colorado. She refused to enjoy her Winter Break because she was jelobus of her Friends. Deidra was the only kid in her neighborhoad who didn't have trun that Winter Break.

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## A LOOK INSIDE...(option 2)

### Read & Respond - Theme

### **Mindy's First Dive**

Mindy's har blew in the salty ocean air as she sat against the edge of the boat. Her pairvis were sweaty, and her stomach had so many knots that she thought she might be sick. Priya, on the other hand, was smiling ear to ear. She was so excited she couldn't sit still.

"Priya, I don't think I can do this," Mindly finally admitted to her friend as tears welled up in her eyes "Oh, come on, Mindyl You can't back out now. We're literally out in the middle of the ocean. Please, just do it for met

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Finally, the two airls clinicked out of the shork diving case and back into the boat. Mindy let out a long sigh of relief She couldn't believe the actually dd it. But what was norre surprising was that short, dwing had been one of the best experiences of her life. Priya hugged Mindy. "Thank you for being so bravel You did it, Mindy"

What is the big idea the author wants to communicate? How do you know? What is a possible theme for this text? Is there more than one?

### Read & Respond - Theme

### The Unluckiest Luckiest Day

Glen walked home from school every day, but Thursday was different. Glen wound up \$100 richer on Thursday. On the way home, Glen Found a one-hundred-dollar bill blowing in the wind by the sidewalk. He rar up to catch it. He couldn't believe it! He was almost home when he found it, but there was no one around. Glen was so excited - it was his lucky day Glen ran home, grabbed h

### Read & Respond - Theme

### New Shoes

Solvador watched Andy try to play with the other boys during recess. Solvador also watched the other boys make fun of Andy, but Andy didn't seem to notice. Andy didn't have very nice clothes or shoes. In fact, Andy's lothes were always really dirty, and his shoes were way too big.

Salvador made friends with Andy. He didn't want Andy to be friends with those other boys because they ere so mean to him. Salvador made it a point to get to know Andy and even encouraged his other Friends to do the same. Turns out that Andy's more couldn't afford to buy him new clothes or shoes this school year. Andy has

to wear his older brother's hand-me-downs. That's why nothing fit him quite right. Solvador thought about Andy a lot. On the way to school Solvador asked his dad. "Can we go shopping after school today?"

Sure son, what do you need?" Salvador's dad asked nonchalantly

"I want to spend my savings on a new friend I made at school," Salvador filled his dad in on Andy's situation, "I want to buy him a new pair of shoes."

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Andy, Salvador, and Salvador's circle of friends, became really close that year. They were best friends for a long time.

### THINK

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### What is the big idea the author wants to communicate? How do you know?

What is a possible theme for this text? Is there more than one?

### Read & Respond - Theme

believable \*\*

### The Road to Recovery

The storm had finally passed. It was the first hurricane to hit the town of Wills in a long time - since 1967, to be exact. Most people evacuated a Few days ago, but Kristy, her Family, and a Few other neighbors stayed The rain and wind Finally stopped, so everyone slowly began coming outside their houses. The damage left

### Read & Respond - Theme

### A Change of Heart

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THINK

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What is the big idea the author wants to communicate? How do you know? What is a possible theme for this text? Is there more than one?

### Read & Respond - Theme

to shoot

### The Annual School Tech Fair

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	Read & Respond - Theme	d saw the	Read & Respond - Theme 3	She is not	Read & Respond - Theme	(17)	
neighbor, Jill, Jill was frantic. She for moment. Eventually, Jill sat a har. "I just don't know what to was supposed to pay for a new i	Mindy's First Dive If you were going to post one picture form the story that contures the big stea (the therme), what would it be? Draw your picture, and then write a capiton describing that moment. Don't farget to include 3 highlags for your social media post.		New Shoes Sometimes stories can have more than one therme. Think about this short story and thy to identify three possible themes. Make sure you use evidence from the text to support your thinking		Happy Birthday Neveah In some stories, the characters will learn important lessons. We can identify the lesson and then think about how that lesson applies to air own IPC. This helps us think about the therme of the story		
worked over time for that mone Glen felt terrible. His lucki heart, Glen told the truth. He pri Jill shrieked with excitem	Q	yet deter w neighb one of th moved, o uction.	Possible Theme Text Evidence	o film the ir film, ar iditing. Tio nt only ge e a partn	What specific lesson did the How c character learn in this story?	can you apply that lesson to your own life?	
THINK:  What is the big idea the What is a possible them		idea th le then		ea the o			
	# #						
	#						
	Image: Constraint of the second of				Read & Respond - Theme		
			The Road to Recovery Authors of ten use stories to communicate BLG DEAS that go beyond what the words tell us is happening in the story. What BLG DEA do you think the author words you to take away from this story and apply to your own life? Look for two pieces of evidence that support that big idea.		Should Shelly Tell? A lot of times, you can identify the theme by thinking about what advice you would give the character. If going to write the main character a note and share some advice, what would you want to tell them		
	Evidence # What's the BIG IDEA?		Evidence +1 What's the BIG IDEA?	1	Dear		
	Evidence *2		Evidence #2				
						Sincerely,	

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## A LOOK INSIDE...(option 3)

### Read & Respond - Theme

Read & Respond - Theme

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Salvador watched Andy try to play with the other boys during recess. Salvador also watched the other boys make fun of Andy, but Andy didn't seem to notice. Andy didn't have very nice clothes or shoes. In fact, Andy's hes were always really dirty, and his shoes were way too big.

Salvador made friends with Andy. He didn't want Andy to be friends with those other boys because they ere so mean to him. Salvador made it a point to get to know Andy and even encouraged his other Friends to do the same. Turns out that Andy's more couldn't afford to buy him new clothes or shoes this school year. Andy has

to wear his older brother's hand-me-downs. That's why nothing fit him quie right. Solvador thought about Andy a lot. On the way to school Solvador asked his dad. "Can we go shopping after school today?"

Sure son, what do you need?" Salvador's dad asked nonchalantly

"I want to spend my savings on a new friend I made at school," Salvador filled his dad in on Andy's n, "I want to buy him a new pair of shoes." The next day. Andy got his new pair of shoes. Salvador made sure he gave them to Andy in private He

didn't wart to enviorsas inn, and Salvador didn't need anyone else to know that he gave Andy the shoes. Salvador was giving this gift for Andy's happiness, not for attention.

Andy, Salvador, and Salvador's circle of friends, became really close that year. They were best friends for a long time.

THINK

2

### What is the big idea the author wants to communicate? How do you know?

What is a possible theme for this text? Is there more than one

### Read & Respond - Theme

### The Road to Recovery

The storm had finally passed. It was the first hurricane to hit the town of Wills in a long time - since 1967, to be exact. Most people evacuated a Few days ago, but Kristy, her family, and a Few other neighbors stayed The rain and wind Finally stopped, so everyone slowly began coming outside their houses. The damage left

Read & Respond - Theme

### A Change of Heart

Harper's morn worked as a fashian designer, and she was pretty good at it. Her job allowed Harper and her morn to move all the way from a small town in Texas to New York City - the fashian capital of Americal When Harper was little (around ten), she loved that her mom worked all the time. Harper got to stay home with the nanny, who was so much more fun to play with. Plus, every time her mom came home from a work trip, she would bring Harper a present. Over the years, she aot clothes from Milan, makeup from downtown New York, signed albums from Atlanta, a beach trip to Miami (without her mom), and an allowance that was practically endless!

Now that Harper is seventeen, she feels a little differently. She really misses her morn. At first, she loved all the space and freedom, and she definitely loved the aifts. Now, though, she would aive anything to just spend some time with her more. She is realizing that she will be leaving for college next year and that she's barely spent any time with her mam since she was ten years old. Harper decides to write her mom a letter. In her letter, she explains how much she appreciates all the hard work her morn does, and how she does a great job taking care of her. She also explains that it makes her really sad spending most of her time alone or with her friends, knowing she'll be eaving for college soon. She explains that she misses her morn and that no amount of gifts can replace their quality time together.

THINK

3

4

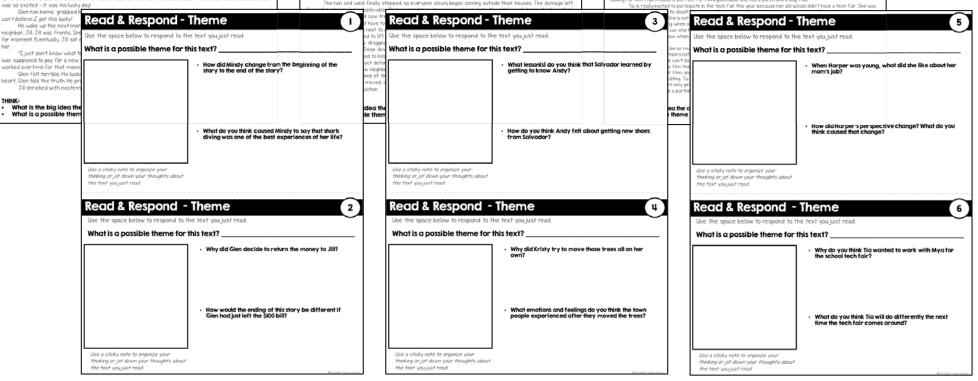
What is the big idea the author wants to communicate? How do you know? What is a possible theme for this text? Is there more than one?

### Read & Respond - Theme

### The Annual School Tech Fair

6

Tis and Mys decide to partner up for the annual school tech fair this year. They are creating a movie for their project. Their film is about a little airl. Tanva, who lost her doa but found him sitting on the front parch ofter hours of looking for him. Nyu's house is perfect for fining because she has a porch and a dor. Fida Tia is really excited to participate in the tech fair this year because her ald school didn't have a tech fair. She was







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