

Writing Thematic Statements

This template will be used to help you draft three paragraphs. Make a copy of this, share it properly and link it to “Thematic Statements Document” on your unit one blog page.

A thematic statement is much more than a phrase or sentence because it **states, explains, supports and proves** an author’s theme.

You will now write thematic statements based on the stories you’ve read so far:

1. Write a **well-developed paragraph*** about a theme found in *The Test*.
2. Write a **well-developed paragraph** about a theme found in *The Most Dangerous Game*(L1) or *A Defenseless Creature* (L2).
3. Write a **well-developed paragraph** about a theme found in your summer reading book.

***This is what a well-developed paragraph looks like:**

- **State:** What is the theme? Make a statement(claim, answer or assertion) about what you think the author’s message or lesson was in the story. The subject of the sentence should focus on the author.
- **Explain:** Explain what your statement means. “In other words,”
- **Support:** Support your explanation by using details from the organizers you completed for the story. The organizers should contain elements of plot, types of characters and conflict, and an analysis/summary (someone, wanted, but, so). Do not use quotes yet, merely write about the pieces of the story that support your claim.
- **Prove:** Now use a quote that provides clear evidence for what you’ve explained. After quoting the author, explain how the quote proves what you’ve said in the paragraph.

Write the **well-developed paragraphs** here:

For Tom Edison's Shaggy Dog:

In Kurt Vonnegut's Tom Edison's Shaggy Dog, the theme of the story is that everyone has their own story, and we should take the time to listen to it. In the story, when Bullard tried to talk about himself, and his life's story, the stranger shut him down. Through this the author is trying to show us that sometimes we need to listen to other people instead of just talking about ourselves. He tries to portray that people have things to say and that we should listen because humans don't know everything and often we overlook the little things. Vonnegut also includes a talking dog to show how many things we overlook because of human arrogance. In the story Bullard and the stranger discover dogs can talk. The author is trying to convey how we overlook things as humans because we are self-absorbed and think that we are the best species.

For *The Test*:

The theme portrayed in Angelica Gibbs *The Test* is that everyone should be treated equally, and should not be judged or discriminated. We live in a society where we need to embrace our differences, and not discriminate against people because of it. She portrays this when the driving instructor made a rude comment towards her because of her skin color. Although the instructor may have been trying to be funny, comments like those are not accepted in our society. Marian couldn't function the proper way to receive her license with all of the racist joke that had been made towards her. For example, when the instructor was making fun of her college education she yelled at the instructor causing her to fail.

For *MDG* (or *A Defenseless Creature*):

Richard Cornell is trying to convey that with thought and reason you can be victorious in anything. He also portrayed that violence is not the best answer. Violence should never be the go to answer for anyone, or in any situation. In the story Rainsford, and Zaroff were both very good hunters. But, Zaroff had the upper hand being the only one armed. This caused Rainsford to have to use his wit to out-smart Zaroff and to ultimately kill him and win the game. This shows that you don't have to be violent to win, or be good at something. Sometimes it just takes a little bit of brain power and wit to beat the odds. He had to beat the odds because the chances are slim that Rainsford would win a killing game when the other man was armed and he was not.

The Greatest Zombie Movie Ever:

In The Greatest Zombie Movie Ever, Jeff Strand is trying to convey that it is important to maintain healthy friendships during during stressful, or crucial situations. This is important because if you don't involve one of your friends in a situation where their input matters, they could get mad and not want to be your friend anymore. In the story, Justin doesn't ask for his crews input, and makes many changes to the production, this makes the crew angry. Finally, Gabe had enough of it and quit. But, after Justin realized he was wrong Gabe agreed to comeback, and they made the movie the way they all originally wanted to. This alludes back to the theme because at first the main character didn't have any empathy towards his

friends, and ultimately caused his friend to quit. But when he realized that what he did was wrong, he restored his healthy friendship with his friend and finished the movie the right way.