

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade STA Reading: April 27-May 1, 2020

Hi 5<sup>th</sup> grade students! I miss you and pray for you! Remember to read every day!!

Please send me your homework from last week (analyzing tone of “The American Flag” and “Nothing Gold Can Stay”).

This week we will learn how to identify the **theme** of a poem. *Theme is the message* that the author wants to give to the readers. To find a theme, first find the main idea of the poem (one-sentence summary) then determine the tone. By combining what the poem is about and the author’s attitude toward the subject, you can infer a theme.

### How to find the theme of a poem:

1. State the main idea (one-sentence summary)
2. Determine the tone (what is the author’s attitude?)
3. Infer the theme (What message does author give?)

### **Birds’ Nests** by Edward Thomas

The summer nests are uncovered by autumn wind,  
Some torn, others dislodged, all dark,  
Everyone sees them: low or high in a tree,  
Or hedge, or single bush, they hang like a mark.

Since there’s no need of eyes to see them with  
I cannot help but a little shame  
That I missed most, even at eye’s level, till  
The leaves blew off and made the seeing no game.

Main idea: *The autumn wind uncovers the bird nests so that everyone can see them.*

Tone: *disappointed or sad that he missed the bird nests when they were hidden. Now they are ruined by the wind.*

Theme: *Take time to notice nature’s beauty before it is too late.*

### **Dreams** by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

Main idea: *Life is cold and uneventful if dreams are allowed to die.*

Tone: *somber, cautioning*

Theme: *Don’t let your dreams die!*

**Homework:**

- Read the following poems and identify the main idea, tone and theme for each.
- You may print this page or write your answers on lined paper.
- Send your completed work to [mmyler@gtacs.org](mailto:mmyler@gtacs.org) on or before Friday, May 1

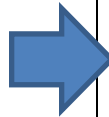
**A Poison Tree** by William Blake

I was angry with my friend:  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I water'd it in fears,  
Night and morning with my tears:  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.  
Till it bore an apple bright.  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,  
When the night had veil'd the pole;  
In the morning glad I see;  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.



Main idea (one sentence summary):

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Tone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

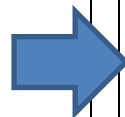
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**A Time to Talk** by Robert Frost

When a friend calls to me from the road  
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,  
I don't stand still and look around  
On all the hills I haven't hoed,  
And shout from where I am, "What is it?"  
No, not as there is a time to talk.  
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,  
Blade-end up and five feet tall,  
And plod: I go up to the stone wall  
For a friendly visit.



Main idea (one sentence summary):

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Tone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

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