

THEMES



What do you think a theme is?

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What are themes?

Themes can be found in poems, drama and stories

The theme is the message or lesson, that the author wants you to learn from the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsVIa4WIdcw>

The theme is not always directly stated by the author.

Sometimes, as a reader, you will have to think about the events/plot of the story to work out the theme.



When trying to determine the theme, ask yourself...

- What was the problem in the story?
- How did the characters respond to the problem?
- How did the characters change in the story?
- What did the characters learn in the story?
- What sticks with you, as the reader?



Common Themes

Love

Respect

Forgiveness

Hope

Teamwork

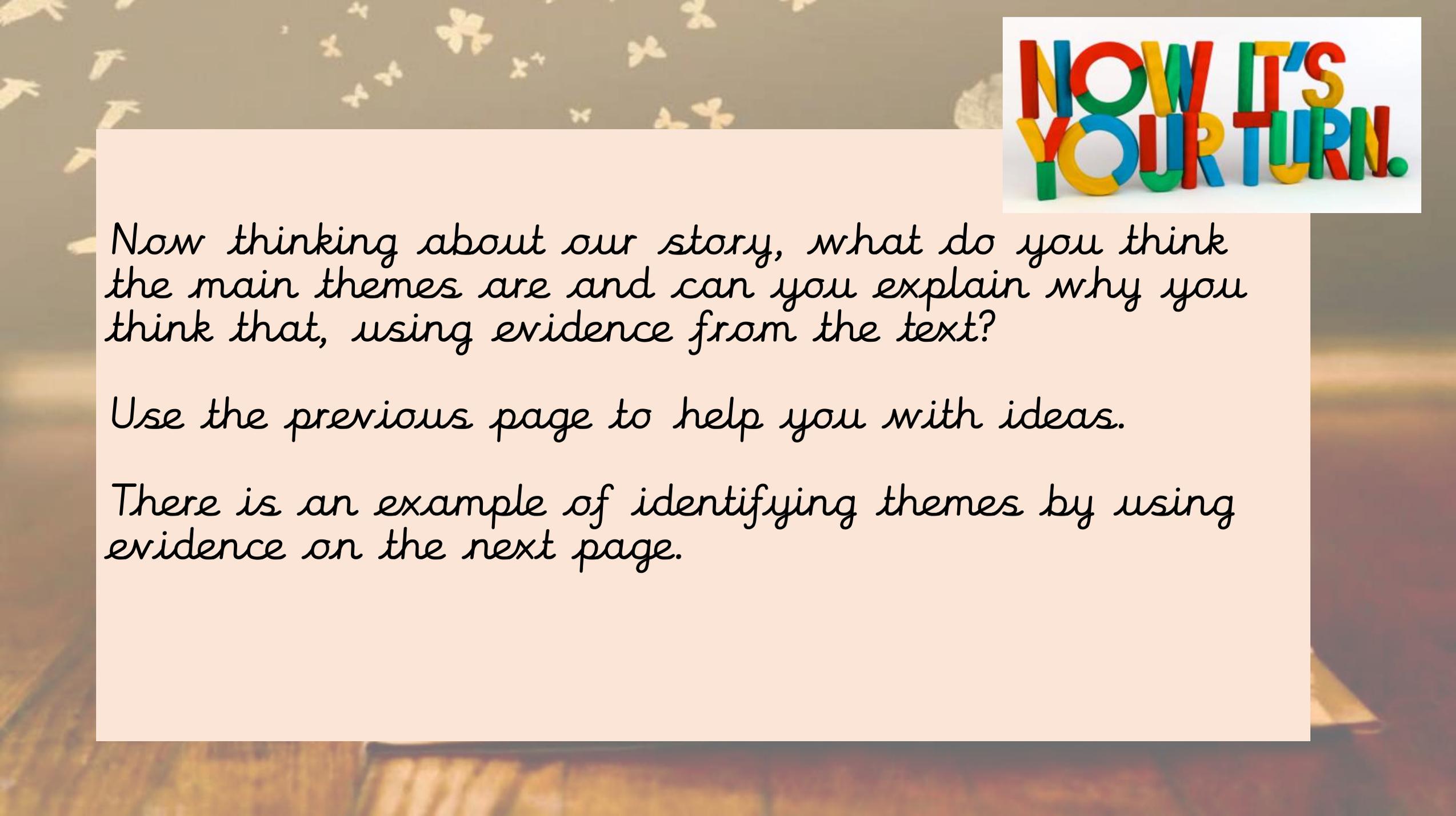
Courage

Friendship

Honesty

Overcoming Challenges

Be happy with yourself



NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN.

Now thinking about our story, what do you think the main themes are and can you explain why you think that, using evidence from the text?

Use the previous page to help you with ideas.

There is an example of identifying themes by using evidence on the next page.

Themes in Hercules

I think there are several themes within the story of Hercules. The main theme overall is overcoming challenges. He is different from everyone else around him and searches for the reasons. When he discovers he is a son of Zeus, Hercules must go through trials to prove himself as a god. He shows that he is able to overcome anything that is put in front of him and perseveres through them. Another theme is love, for both friends and family. Hercules goes through battles and trials for his family. He shows that he is willing to risk his safety for others, as shown by his fight to save Meg. Additionally, he lifts those around him and values their friendship, shown with Phil. Phil, also supports Hercules through everything even when they do not agree with how something should be done and this shows true friendship.

