

2.1 Identifying Theme Practice

Read "To Everything There Is a Season" by Alistair MacLeod on pages 300–305 of Sightlines 10.

What is the subject of this story?
• Remember that the subject is the main topic and will be given in a few words or less, and unlike a theme, it does not need to be a complete sentence. • It is not just one plot line event of the story such as learning there is no Santa Claus. Instead it is the subject of the entire piece. • Look for ideas that are related and repeated. • Give the main topic or subject of this story, and list three pieces of evidence from the text that prove that you have chosen the main topic or subject correctly. You only need ideas here and not direct quotes.
Based on your chosen subject, what is the theme of this story?
List three pieces of evidence from the story to support your chosen theme. These will often be similar or the same as ideas used to support the subject.
Does your theme pass the checklist? If not you will need to make necessary changes.
• Have you identified a general idea about life that applies to others beyond the story? • Is your theme a complete sentence? • Does your theme not mention any specific characters or plot events? • Does your theme relate directly to the title if there is a connection? • Can you prove or support your theme from evidence within the story?