

Culminating Project: Theme in a Box

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to synthesize the quarter's skills by creating an original short scene that demonstrates a clear theme through a dynamic character.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper
- pencil
- a small box or shoebox (optional, for a 'story box')
- 5-6 small household objects to represent symbols/characters
- markers or colored pencils
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose a theme you want to teach through a story (e.g., 'honesty builds trust' or 'perseverance pays off').
2. Write a short scene (10-15 sentences) featuring one dynamic character who changes because of a conflict connected to your theme.
3. Select 3-5 small household objects to represent your character, a symbol, and the setting; arrange them in a box or on a tray as a 3D 'story box' display.
4. On an index card for each object, write a one-sentence caption explaining what it represents in your story.
5. Present your story box and scene to a family member, then ask them to guess your theme before you tell them — record whether they guessed correctly.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of your original scene?
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2. How does your character change (dynamic) over the course of the scene, and what causes the change?
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3. What symbol did you include, and what does it represent?
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- 4. Did your family member guess the theme correctly? What does that tell you about how clearly you conveyed it through the character's actions rather than stating it directly?**
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