

8th Grade ~ Theme Chart

SAMPLE

Title of Book: The Misfits

Author: James Howe

Definition of Theme:

The central idea or the “message” implied

The theme is seldom stated directly. It is a concept indirectly expressed through recurrent images, actions, characters and symbols. It must be inferred by the reader.

Theme differs from subject or topic in that the theme is an observation or insight about the subject. For example, the subject of a poem may be a flower; its theme may be a statement about nature.

Select one major theme from your summer reading, and write it in the box below.

Theme Being different

In 2-3 sentences, describe the theme you chose.

In the story, students at a middle school are constantly being judged, especially four kids: Joe, Skeezie, Addie and Bobby. They are tired of being stereotyped and made fun of so they form a political party which has a platform against name calling. They want kids to start embracing who they are instead of changing just to fit in. They want people to know that it's ok to be different.

In 2-3 sentences, state what the author is saying about this theme.

James Howe is saying that people shouldn't judge others. Everyone is different, and we need to accept and embrace that. People should just be who they are.

Name three instances in the story where this theme is evident. Provide a quotation from the book as evidence of the theme.

Quote #1

“Joe is the most creative person I know – too creative for some people, and maybe that is part of the problem. The other part of the problem is that he acts more like a girl than a boy much of the time... Joe figures he is who he is and what’s the big deal, and I figure he is right about that.”

(page. _11-12____)

Quote #2

“Other people may call us names or think we’re weird or whatever, but that doesn’t mean we believe them.”

(page _14____)

Quote #3

“I felt like I had to be the person they imagined me to be. The fact was I was awkward and incredibly shy.”

(page _215____)