



Theme in Literature

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Read the poem: 'The seed was buried deep and dark, / No sun, no rain, no gentle spark. / Yet still it pushed through stone and clay / And met the light of a brand-new day.' What is the theme?

- A) Seeds need sunlight and rain to grow properly.
- B) Determination can help you overcome even the hardest obstacles.
- C) The poem is about gardening and planting seeds.
- D) Stones and clay are bad for growing plants.

2. Read: 'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, / I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference.' What theme does this figurative language suggest?

- A) People should avoid walking in the woods alone.
- B) Yellow woods are beautiful in the fall season.
- C) The choices we make shape who we become.
- D) It is always better to follow the crowd.

3. A poet writes: 'My heart is an ocean, / Waves of feeling crash and roll.' Which type of figurative language is used, and what theme might it suggest?

- A) Simile; the theme is that oceans are beautiful.
- B) Metaphor; the theme is that emotions are powerful and sometimes overwhelming.
- C) Alliteration; the theme is that waves are dangerous.
- D) Personification; the theme is that hearts can swim.

4. Read the poem: 'The candle burned all through the night, / A tiny flame, a steady light. / Though darkness pressed from every side, / That little glow refused to hide.' What is the theme?

- A) Candles are useful during power outages.
- B) Darkness is stronger than light.
- C) Even a small act of hope or goodness can resist great darkness.
- D) The poem is about the science of how candles work.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the correct answer on each line.

1. Poets often use _____ to represent big ideas, such as a dove standing for peace.

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1. Poets often use **symbols** to represent big ideas, such as a dove standing for peace.
2. A **simile** compares two unlike things using 'like' or 'as' and can hint at a poem's theme.