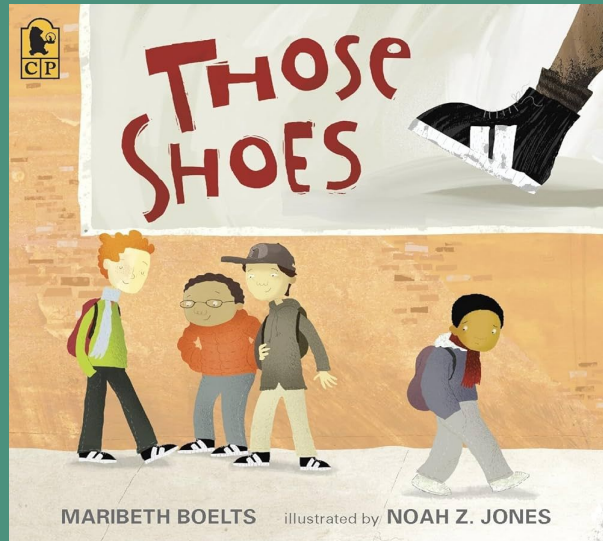


# Identifying Theme in Short Stories

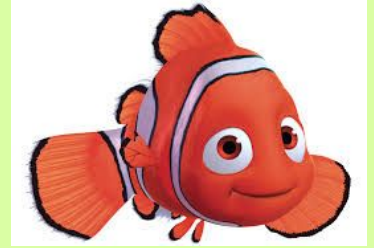




Why do people want certain brands?

# Theme:

Definition: A story's theme is the central, underlying message or main idea that the author wants to convey about life, society, or humanity. It's a deeper concept than the plot, exploring universal topics like love, betrayal, or the nature of ambition, and is developed through elements like characters, dialogue, and plot events.



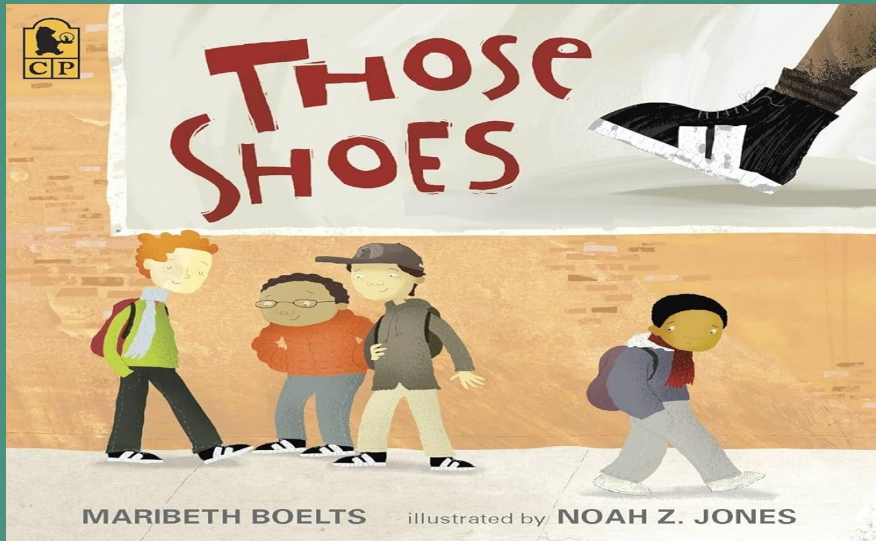
Example:

In Finding Nemo, the theme might be: parents must learn to let go or friendship and loyalty.

# Those Shoes

by Maribeth Boelts &

Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones



Graphic Organizers:

Time to Infer!

1. An event in the story.
2. What the character learns.
3. Possible theme idea.

## After Reading:

- Discuss with your desk partner
- What lesson does Jeremy learn?
- What message does this story send to us?

# Theme Statement:

## Definition:

A theme statement is a complete sentence that expresses a central idea or message about a topic. A theme statement presents the author's perspective or a universal truth about that topic, often revealed through the characters, plot, and conflict of a work.

## Example:

Theme: Kindness

- Theme statement: True happiness comes from kindness, not from having what others have.

# Exit Tickets

- At the bottom of your Graphic Organizer sheet:
- Write your own **Theme Statement** and support it with evidence from the story (one example or quotes).
- Spelling doesn't matter, but proper grammar is necessary.

# Student Work Example:

**Theme**  
**Those Shoes**  
By Maribeth Boelts

Date: November 21st, 2025

**Feelings:**  
Jealous  
Sad  
Upset  
Frustrated  
Mad  
desperate

**Possible theme of the story?**  
The possible theme was about being kind and

**Exit Ticket: Theme Statement:**  
Thinking about helping others and not just making you happy.

**An Event In the story?**  
He wanted to be the same as everyone else so he bought the shoes but they were way to small and then he realized that he didn't need them and there was less fortunate kids who needed them more than him.

**What does the Character Learn Through the story?**  
He learned that less fortunate kids needed it more than him.

**Story:**  
Those Shoes