Inference:

* A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning
* *Reading between the lines*

Example:

Dr Seuss, The Zax

1.

2.

3.

4.

THEME

* + The theme of a story is **what the author is saying about the subject of the story.**

**Example:**

* + - * **Subject: growing up (one word)**
      * **Theme: Growing up is hard. (one SENTENCE)**

Think of some **themes** that could go with the **subject**: LOVE

Themes:

What theme looks like:

* It is a “truth” about human behavior according to the author.
* The author wants us to recognize something about life or our lives
* Theme is usually not stated directly — we must *infer* it

Universal Themes

* **Because a theme is a *generalization* about life or human nature, and because certain experiences are common to all people everywhere…**

**authors often express similar themes**

* **These universal themes deal with subjects about general human experience.**
  + **good and evil, life and death, love and loss**

**How to find Theme: 7 steps**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

How do we know our theme is good?

* It must be a complete sentence.
* It is explaining what the author/story is saying *about* the subject.
* Ex:
  + - Subject: Rain
    - Theme: Rain is good.

What is the Theme of the Zax: Go through the 7 steps

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**6.**

Dr Seuss

* Let’s try another one.... **“The Sneetches” Theme**

1. What (not who) is the story about? State it in one word: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the conflict? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the characters’ motivations?
   * Why do they do what they do? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do the characters change?
   * What does this say about the author’s attitude towards the characters or subject of the story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the theme of ‘The Sneetches?’ (make sure it applies to the *entire* story):