

## Questions to Encourage Reflection About the Theme of a Text

1. What message did you take away from reading this text? Why?
2. Which passage in the text would you consider most significant or most important? Why? Did that passage help shape what you considered to be the message of this text?
3. If you were talking with the author, can you speculate what the author might say the theme is? What is in the text that gives hints to that?
4. How do the title, chapter titles, and/or cover illustration help you determine a theme for the text?
5. How do the changes the main character undergoes help you make a decision about the message of this text?
6. Talk with someone else who has read the same text. What does this person see as the message? If you see different messages, discuss what caused those differences.
7. The plot and the theme are not the same. Think of the text you just read. What is the plot? What is the theme? How does the plot relate to or affect the theme?
8. What affected your interpretation of the theme the most: the plot, the characters, or the setting?
9. If you were to draw the theme symbolically, what would you draw?
10. Think about several texts you've enjoyed. Do they share similar themes? Different themes? If they share similar themes, what does that tell you about what you are looking for in a book or story?

Beers, Kylene. When Kids Cant' Read. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH. 2003. Pg. 273.