



Introduced in Teacher's Edition, p. 62

Lesson 54

Analyze Theme

Teach

Explain to students that the theme of a story is its central message about life to the reader. Point out that a fable is one of the few story forms where the author states the theme directly at the end. However, the message is first told indirectly in the fable through the words and actions of the characters. As students read “Teamwork,” suggest that they pay attention to how Coach Harrell attempts to change the behavior of his team members.

Guided Practice

Distribute “Teamwork,” page 481 and read the fable with students. Then ask the following comprehension questions. To better monitor students’ answers, you may wish to have students answer some questions independently and some with a partner.

Paragraph 1 *Why was Coach Harrell hopeful for the coming season? (because these were the best players he’d seen at tryouts in years)*

Paragraph 2 *What did the Coach think when he saw his team play a game? (He was disappointed in what he saw.)*

Paragraphs 3–4 *What did the Coach hand to Damon? (He handed him a bundle of chopsticks.)*

Paragraphs 5–7 *Did Damon and Aaron succeed when responding to the Coach’s challenge? (No, they both failed to break the chopsticks.)*

Paragraphs 8–9 *What happened when the Coach gave each player one chopstick? (They were able to break them.)*

Paragraph 10 *How did the Coach think the players could become an unbreakable team? (by sticking together and supporting each other)*

Apply

Distribute the **Graphic Organizer, page 528**. Have small groups of students work together to complete the organizer. Ask them to fill in each of the first two boxes with what the Coach said and did and how the players responded. Then use this information to fill in the last box with the story’s lesson or moral.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

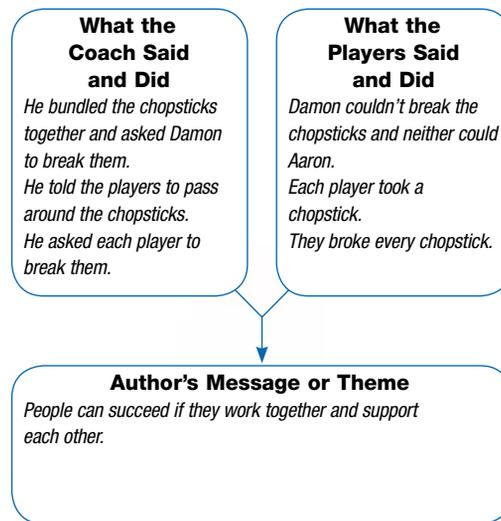
- Identify the theme of a fable.
- Analyze the characters’ words and actions to identify the theme.

BUILD BACKGROUND

Ask students if they have ever read any of Aesop’s fables. Discuss any of the fables that they know. Explain the fable they are about to read is an updated version of an Aesop’s fable. Then share the following information:

- A fable is a story that teaches a lesson, or moral. Fables often have animals that speak and act like humans.
- Although Aesop is the best known fable writer, fables have been popular in many cultures throughout history.

Possible answers for Apply activity.



Graphic Organizer, page 528

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 377

SAM Keyword: Theme

