



**Inspired Instruction, LLC.  
Standards Solution Holding**

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## Reading Literature

### Themes in Different Forms

### Grades 6-8

#### Standards:

- RL.6.9. Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
- RL.7.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RL.8.5. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

**Focus:** Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

**Goal:** This lesson can be incorporated easily into the instruction regarding whatever fictional text or poem the students are currently reading in your class.

#### Procedures:

1. Take a theme from any text that the students are currently reading and post it on the board for students to copy. Divide students into small groups and tell them that they are going to do some creative writing. Each team will draw a genre or form from a hat. They must create a text in their given genre that develops the assigned theme.
  - a. Possible forms: poem, story, comic strip, journal, magazine article, pamphlet, song, editorial, and fairy tale.
  - b. You may also choose to use several themes and a smaller collection of forms, especially if you wish to review the structures of particular genres.
2. Remind students that a reader must be able to infer the theme based on the text; the theme itself cannot be stated directly in the text. If necessary, help students brainstorm some textual elements that help reveal theme (e.g. conflict, symbolism, dialogue, anecdotes, etc.).
3. After giving groups enough time to complete their writing assignments, each group will present its work. Encourage audience members to pay close attention, as they will need information from each presentation to complete the next activity.
4. After each group has presented, students will complete a graphic organizer to summarize what they have learned about how different genres and forms build and reveal theme. Consider a graphic organizer similar to the one below. Have students remain in their small groups to complete it.

<b>Genre or Form</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
Poem		
Story		
Journal		