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## Theme Worksheet 6

Directions: Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. Write in complete sentences.

1. Frank and Joseph were super excited that the teacher assigned them to the same group. Unfortunately, she also assigned George to their group. George never did any work, so Frank and Joseph knew that they were going to have to pull his weight. Over the next week the two boys worked extensively to create and rehearse their presentation while George annoyed the girls who sat near him and played with his phone under his desk. Frank asked Joseph whether they should tell the teacher about George's failure to contribute to the project, but Joseph advised him against it because he didn't want them to be known as snitches. So George continued to play as the other boys worked. On the last workday, Frank and Joseph debated whether or not they should even write George's name on the project, but they decided to do it just to avoid conflict. Soon it was time to deliver the presentation. Frank and Joseph bounced back and forth in a lively conversational way, delivering facts to the audience and demonstrating their knowledge of the subject. Unfortunately, when it was George's turn to present, he just turned his back to the audience and read from the visual aid in a dry monotone voice. He mispronounced several words and didn't seem to understand what he was reading. Shortly after the presentation, the boys received a score sheet from their teacher. They had each received a B and the comment, "Frank and Joseph: nice presentation but I would like to see George get more involved next time. Please try and include him."

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?
2. Katie exhaled calmly. After several long nights of studying, she finally felt ready for the exam. Walking into her English class the next morning, Katie coolly focused on the task before her. As the teacher walked up and down the rows distributing the test, Katie heard a noise, "Psst..." Katie turned to see Shannon staring at her desperately. Shannon whispered, "I forgot to study. Please let me copy off of you. I'll do anything." Katie refused, "I can't risk it Shannon." Each knew that if the teacher caught them, they would both fail, but Shannon persisted, "Come on, Katie. Help me out. I'll give you fifty bucks." The teacher turned toward them from across the room, "Ladies, please, it's test time." Katie didn't want to jeopardize her future, but fifty dollars was a lot of money to her, so she silently nodded at Shannon. During the exam Katie kept her test document on the corner of her desk near Shannon, giving Shannon a clear view of all of her hard work. Shannon copied Katie's test exactly, even the writing portion word for word. After the test Katie approached Shannon in the hallway. "When am I going to get the fifty dollars?" Shannon sneered at her. "Ha, never. What are you going to tell someone that you let me copy? Please..." Shannon snapped at Katie. Katie ran away crying, upset that she had been deceived and worried that she would get caught cheating.

What is the theme of the story?

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3. Twin brothers Jack and Willie had more differences than commonalities. Willie was tall and Jack was short. Willie was always joking around while Jack was a very serious person. Perhaps their greatest difference was that Willie learned things quickly and easily in school while Jack had to study long and hard. Willie had the time of his life during high school. He played around a lot, did very little work, and managed to get Cs in most of his classes. On the other hand, Jack had a difficult time during high school. He played around very little, worked really hard, and, like Willie, managed to get Cs in most of his classes. When the twins went away to college, they acted in much the same way even though things had changed. Willie went right to his usual tricks of skating by and doing as little as possible, while Jack continued to work hard in all of his classes. Since he had worked hard his whole life, Jack noticed that the work in college was much more difficult, but he was prepared for it. Willie did not really notice that the difficulty had changed until the semester was over. Jack managed to get Bs and Cs in all of his courses while Willie earned mainly Ds and Fs and was placed on academic probation.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?
4. For the last few months the team at $\mathbf{J} \& \mathbf{J}$ Marketers had been working hard to launch a new campaign for a major soft drink. Much of the work had already been done, but the team still needed to agree on a color scheme for the campaign. The team was evenly divided into a group that liked the pink and green color scheme and another that liked pink and brown. The marketers decided to bring in a young man named David from the mailroom. David had shown some promising characteristics in the past, and the team was excited to give him a chance to prove himself. Such a chance could lead to a full-time position in the marketing department with a significant raise. The marketing team filled in David on the new campaign and explained to him the current color scheme dilemma, but rather than speaking to the color scheme, David took issue with the slogan. "I just don't like how it sounds. Also, this logo is boring. It would look a lot better if it had some balloons or something behind it." The marketing department thanked him for his input and sent him back to the mailroom. The next day they decided to bring in an outside consultant to help them resolve the color scheme dilemma.

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5. It was two weeks until Pam and her friends graduated from the 8 th grade. Pam decided to put together a final event so that she and her friends could celebrate together. Since she wanted everyone to have a lot of fun, she started asking her friends what they wanted to do. Chelsea wanted to skate at the roller rink. Beth wanted to shop at the mall. Patricia wanted to see the animals and the zoo, and Vivica wanted to go to the beach. Pam figured that she could make everybody happy so she planned to do everything. On the day of the big event, the girls met up at Pam's house in the early afternoon. They started off at the roller rink, but by the time everyone got on a pair of skates and did a few laps, Pam was ushering them off. "Sorry, ladies, but we've got to go." Chelsea sighed. About an hour later the girls arrived at the mall. Beth chirped with excitement, but the ladies were only able to visit a store or two before Pam was rushing them off again. "The zoo closes soon. We've got to go." Beth huffed. After another 45 minutes of driving, the girls arrived at the zoo and Patricia exclaimed, "I can't wait to see the giraffes!" Unfortunately, all of the animal houses were locked as the zoo was closing. "Well, I guess we've got to go," Pam stated. Patricia frowned. Thirty minutes later the girls arrived at the beach, but the sun had almost set and it would be night soon. "Let's not even bother," Vivica said dejectedly. Nobody smiled on the way home.

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