



A theme is the main idea or message behind a story.  
In this session, you will explore the themes of some stories you know.



1. Discuss these questions as a group:  
Can you name a story where...
  - someone was brave?
  - someone was cruel?
  - the characters worked together?

In each case, was this the main idea in the story?  
If so, then it is the story's theme. If it wasn't, what do you think the theme was?



2. Collect ten fiction books from the library.  
Look carefully at the front and back covers.  
What different themes might they have?  
Sort them into groups.

If the library doesn't have ten fiction books, collect as many as you can.



For example:

- friends
- family
- learning
- growing up.



3. Think about a story that you know.
  - How is it similar to other stories you know?
  - How is it different from other stories you know?
  - Focus on two stories. What would happen if the characters in these stories met?Write down your ideas or tell them to a partner.



4. Sit in a circle.  
What can we learn from stories and poems?  
You could think about stories of gods and goddesses.  
Take it in turns to explain something you have learnt from a story or poem.

Give the group a few minutes to think of ideas. They can look at the books in the library to help them.



5. Choose a book from the library on a theme that interests you.  
Tell the group what you think you might learn from it.  
Read the book to find out whether you learn what you expected.  
If you learn something different, tell the group about it in another session.