

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding Themes

The overall message you take away from a story is called its theme. Some stories have one major theme, like: It's worth working hard for what you want. Other stories can have more than one. In this activity, you'll explore the major themes in Patrick Jennings's endearing story, "Odd, Weird, & Little" and describe specific instances from the story that demonstrate each one.

Directions: Read each theme below. Then, in the boxes below them, list three events from the story that support each theme. Be specific! We started the first one for you.

THEME

True friendships are hard to find—and to form. Take a chance and act like a friend even before you ARE a friend. You never know what might come of it.

EXAMPLE 1

Woodrow introduces himself to Toulouse, even though the other kids in class make fun of him.

EXAMPLE 2

EXAMPLE 3

Continued ►►

THEME

Sometimes the best solution to being bullied is to ignore it.

EXAMPLE 1

EXAMPLE 2

EXAMPLE 3

FILL IN YOUR OWN THEME:

EXAMPLE 1

EXAMPLE 2

EXAMPLE 3

Critical Thinking

Now, pick one of the themes you explored above. On a separate piece of paper, write a well-organized paragraph explaining how the theme you chose relates to your life. Remember to use specific examples from an experience or time in your life to back up your ideas.