

THE ART OF Shorts

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Tip #1 ***

I always hated trying to guess themes in school, as it seemed like teachers were always looking for a specific answer. Books have MANY themes, and readers extract different ones based on their personal experience. Personally, I don't spend much time thinking specifically about my themes. I just write the stories, and they happen organically.

Tip #2

Some themes are broad, while others are specific.

If you want readers to glean a SPECIFIC idea from your story that is not obvious, you may have to spell it out...so basically, make it obvious!

Ex. Helping others is personally rewarding - show your character feeling pleased with themselves (in a non-snooby way) after having helped someone in need.

Themes encourage the reader to ACT!

Tip #3

Themes encourage the reader to ACT. They prompt us to examine our lives and make changes where necessary. Both positive and negative themes can have positive effects. That being said, it is important to encourage readers (in a not-pushy way) to align their lives with a good, upstanding, moral example. "Bad guys" get in trouble/feel guilty, or "good guys" are rewarded/have a clean conscience.