

**TOPIC vs.  
THEME**

# What is a theme?

- A theme is a **main, general message about life** that the author develops throughout the story.
- It is something the author wants the reader to walk away with and think about after reading.

## What is a theme? continued...

A **theme is not necessarily a lesson** or a moral; the author's intention is not to teach, but allow the reader to think and explore his/her feelings about the subject.

# How do you know?

## TOPIC:

*Friendship*

vs.

*Love*

vs.

## THEME:

*True friends support one another no matter what*

*True love conquers all*

# Identify

Identify each as a topic or theme:

a. Courage

b. Self confidence is important.

c. Faith

d. One must accept himself for others to accept him.

# So...how do I get to a complex theme statement?

You want to develop a thought-provoking and complex theme statement. To get to a **Level 3 theme**, follow these steps:

<b>LEVEL 1</b>	1-2 word topic
<b>LEVEL 2</b>	Sentence that answers the question, “ <b>What</b> about your topic?”
<b>LEVEL 3</b>	Sentence that answers the question, “ <b>Why?</b> ” regarding your Level 2 Theme.

