Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Fleming

English \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literary Themes

**What is a Theme?**

* A **message** about life or human nature that the author wants you to understand
* A character’s **behavior** ­, **thoughts** and **actions** can be used as clues to determine the theme.

**Theme and Topic are not the same thing.**

Topics can be described in **one or two words**  such as taking risks, overcoming injury, friendship, love, or death.

A theme is a writer's **message** about a **topic**. It usually takes a **complete sentence**  to describe a theme, such as "life's biggest rewards come from taking risks", or "trust is the basis of any good friendship".

Popular themes about loyalty, friendship, and heroism appear in many stories. These are called **recurring themes**.

The theme may be directly stated by the author, if so, we call the theme **explicit**. Usually, the reader must discover the theme by uncovering clues, and the theme is inferred. This is called an **implicit** theme.

**Theme and Plot are not the same thing.**

**Plot** is what **happens** in the story.

**Theme** is an **idea** or **message** that is revealed by the events of the plot.

**A Theme Statement is-** a complete sentence that expresses the **message** that the author wants the reader to learn.

**Example:** Friendship can lead to happiness.

**How to write a Theme Statement:**

Start with a topic.

Ask questions to gain information about your topic.

After learning more about your topic, write a general statement that expresses the message.

**Assignment: come up with three original theme statements that apply to *Gregor the Overlander.* Remember, a theme statement is a general statement that can apply to more than one literary work, and should not contain any reference to specific characters or plot elements.**

1. Courage can mean acting bravely despite feeling fearful. (this is an example. )
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_