

Name Mrs. Thomsen

Book Title The Forgiveness Garden

Date Feb 2019

Author Lauren Thompson

Pathways to a Theme

When you have read your chosen story, respond to the following questions:

-What is the climax?

Karune joined Sama in the garden. They moved past the hate.

-What is the denouement?

Sama and Karune sat under a tree and talked.

-What is the physical setting?

Village of Vayam

and Gamte in a Valley. They have always hated each other

1. What is happening in the story? (This is the surface story) Answer in **point form** or **full sentences**.

- families are enemies on the other side of the river
- boy hits a girl with a rock
- call for revenge and hatred grows
- Sama (protagonist) realizes the hurtfulness of hate & revenge
- opportunity to get revenge but Sama refuses
- build a garden with the rocks instead
- villagers forgive and move on

2. **Identify and describe** the conflict in the story. (character vs character, character vs self, character vs natural environment, character vs society, character vs. machine/supernatural)

character vs. character → Sama vs. Gamte

character vs. society → communities in conflict

character vs self → Sama and Gamte need to decide if they want to perpetuate the hatred or forgive

3. Brainstorm words or phrases that **connect** to the class discussion on the human condition.

Eg. *Humans can be greedy. Humans like to interact with others.*

- Humans may resort to revenge
- Humans experience conflict, war
- Humans have the potential to work conflict out
- It is hard to forgive, especially when angry

Name _____

Book Title _____

Date _____

Author _____

4. **What are 2-3 themes or big ideas of the story (the REAL story) ? Create a theme statement.**

-You can create a theme statement by using the formula **topic+treatment (+/-) ⇒ result.= resolved** Eg. In Macbeth, one could say that "ambition + too much ⇒ cruel = destruction". Therefore the theme statement would be "**Too much ambition can lead to cruelty and possibly end in the destruction of one's self and position**" or "power + corruption ⇒ division = destroyed relationships" would be "**When power is corrupted, divisions occur and relationships may be destroyed**"

-A theme statement has no absolutes, no cliches and no conversational language. Eg. "I think its to never judge a book by its cover" is NOT a good theme statement.

Topic Revenge + treatment(+/-) more! ⇒ result hate+anger = resolved peace/ forgiveness

Theme Statement

Sometimes seeking revenge may only lead to more hate and anger when forgiveness may be the road to peace

Topic War + treatment(+/-) Forgiveness ⇒ result communication = resolved reconciliation

Theme Statement

Sometimes communication & forgiveness after war or conflict may lead to reconciliation and peace.

5. **Change the theme statements into a deep questions.** Eg. *What can be the result of too much ambition? OR How does one balance ambition with empathy? Or How does the quest for power affect relationships?*

How does society (a culture) forgive after a brutal war?
How does society seek reconciliation after witnessing intense hatred

6. How can you **challenge the theme** of the story or **extend your thinking**? For example, do you disagree with the theme? Or see the other side of the story? Are there questions that need to be clarified or asked to extend your thinking?

If we forgive, should a culture forget too? How?
Would building a garden really be effective in forgiving?
Are there other symbolic "forgiveness" gardens in the world? Can we expect a culture to forgive?
Do the First Nations people of Canada forgive us?