



Literary Term: *Theme*

Name _____

The **theme** of a story is what it is mainly about. It is the message the author is trying to convey to the reader. Many stories have more than one theme. Some themes are clearly stated in the text, while others are unstated or hidden in the story, only to be *discovered* by the reader.

Discovering the themes of a story is like fishing. The *obvious* theme or message will be easy to see, like a small fish near the top of the water. Good readers go deeper to uncover the underlying message—they catch the bigger fish! Think about *The Tale of Despereaux*. What are the obvious themes? What is the deeper message the author wants to convey? Write the themes you have discovered at the appropriate depth in the water. How deep can you get?

