

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Comprehension:  
Theme

The **theme** of a story is the author's overall idea. A theme is not the same as a summary of the plot. Identifying the theme lets you know what is most important to the author about the story.

**Read each of the two stories. Then identify each story's theme.**

Martin loves to play the piano. One day he decided to write a new song. He played the song for his friends and family. Most of his friends said that they didn't like the song because they couldn't dance to the fast music. Most of his family members said that they didn't like the song because they thought the music was too slow. So Martin decided to write a song that started off very slow and then got much faster. After he finished, he played the song for his friends and family. They all loved it. Everyone danced as Martin played his new song.

**Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tais, Antonia, and Ellie had always played the Hubbleball game in the same way. They even used the same ball, carrying it from one girl's house to another. During the summer, Tais went away for a week to visit her cousin. When she came back, she knew a new way to play Hubbleball, and she told her friends about it. "No way," said Antonia and Ellie. "Our way of playing Hubbleball is perfect, and we couldn't possibly change." Tais stayed a while to play, but she went home early, and she looked sad. At their next visit, Antonia and Ellie looked at each other. Then Antonia said, "We've thought about this, and we're willing to give your game a try." Tais smiled and explained the new rules. The girls decided that Hubbleball II had different kinds of challenges and was fun in a new way. They decided that they would take turns playing the first version of Hubbleball, and their new favorite game, Hubbleball II.

**Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

