



Theme or Summary?

A summary is a short statement that conveys the main points of a story. A **theme** is a message or a lesson that a story conveys. Read each passage below and identify whether it is a summary, or part of a story with a theme.

1. Kevin was walking home from school when he saw a little girl getting picked on by one of Kevin's classmates. He felt sorry for her, but he did not stop to help her. A few weeks later, the same classmate began picking on Kevin.

1.

2. The white horse gleamed in the sunlight. No one could believe it was the same horse that had wandered into the stable with a matted mane and tail, and covered in mud. Only Fran had looked at the poor creature and seen what it had the potential to become.

2.

3. Maggie made cookies with her mother. First they measured the ingredients. Then they mixed them together. Finally, they scooped balls of dough out of the bowl and put them on the cookie sheet to bake.

3.

4. Louis ran harder than he ever had in his life. His ankles and knees hurt. He felt as if his legs would collapse underneath of him. His breath heaved in his chest. But still he pushed himself and kept running. All the other racers had long ago passed him by. He couldn't possibly win. But he was determined to cross the finish line. Maybe the other racers had come hoping to win, but Louis was only hoping to finish. His race was only against himself.

4.

5. It was hard work setting up the camp. The boys had trouble with the tent. Then one of the tent poles snapped. A swarm of mosquitos came through and everyone got bitten. Then a bear lumbered through the camp and began to eat their trash.

5.

Theme or Summary? ANSWERS

1. Theme
2. Theme
3. Summary
4. Theme
5. Summary

