

Name: _____

Date: _____

Identifying Theme:

Directions: read each short story and determine the theme or message in the story. Remember that a good answer will focus on big world lessons, not small world details of the story.



Grandfather's Office

Adam loved visiting his grandparent's house. There were so many cool old decorations and knickknacks to look at when he was there. Adam loved listening to his grandparents tell stories about the many paintings that hung on their walls, the miniature bells that they collected, and the toys that his own father played with as a child. He learned so much about the way his parents grew up and the history of his family.

One day, Adam opened the door to his grandfather's office. The first thing he saw was a large antique bookshelf made of birch wood. The book shelf was full of old, worn war books and little army figurines made of metal.

Adam examined the army figures, carefully picking each one up, admiring it, and making sure it was put back in its exact place on the bookshelf. He looked at all of the figures on the second and third shelf, before stepping onto a box of old newspapers so he could reach the top shelf. Adam felt around on the shelf and grabbed a model of an old aircraft. He had never been in his grandfather's office before and was excited to talk to his grandpa about all of the cool things he had found.

"Grandpa, where did you get all of the army men and airplanes in your office? Why do you collect army stuff?"

"Please don't play with them," his grandfather said sternly.

Adam didn't understand why his grandfather sounded so angry about the army figurines. They were the coolest things in the house and he had never seen them before.

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“I was in the war, Adam,” Grandpa explained, “A few of the men in my unit gave me these when I was discharged.

Grandpa and Adam sat down at the desk in his office with glasses of hot chocolate. Adam pointed at many of the figurines and asked a ton of questions about every single one of them. He learned that his grandfather was a pilot in World War II and had spent most of his time during the war rescuing wounded soldiers and flying them to hospitals on army bases.

Adam was very interested in the stories his grandfather had to tell. He had known that his grandpa was a good man and had always had the best time when he spent the night at his grandparent’s house. They had so much fun watching sports on television, working in his shop in the garage, and hearing the stories about them and about his dad as a young boy.

It surprised Adam, however, to learn about this part of his grandfather’s life. He had not realized that his grandfather was anything other than a great grandparent who was fun to hang out with. But now, knowing that grandpa had been in the war and was known as a hero for rescuing so many men, he was able to see a different side of his grandfather’s life. He was so proud of his grandfather’s bravery, that Adam decided he wanted to learn more and to possibly join the military after high school.

What is the theme of this story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?
