

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.



### **My Favorite Holiday**

**My family has always loved to celebrate Halloween. We loved Halloween so much that we even celebrated it in the summer.**

**Every July, my mother would take my sister and me camping at a small campground about four hours from our house. The campground owners loved hosting different activities that were fun for the entire family.**

**My family's favorite activity was Halloween in July. We would spend the entire month of June thinking of ways that we could decorate our camper for Halloween. We would dig out the decorations from the basement closet and open up the orange bins to see what was inside. We would create sketches of ways to turn our campsite into a haunted graveyard, a mad scientist's laboratory, or a werewolf's den. The year we won first place in the contest, we had built a giant spider web out of rope and fake cobwebs. We put a fog machine behind it and dressed up as spiders. Our campsite looked like a big web crawling with evil spiders.**

**Creating Halloween costumes was my favorite part of Halloween in July. My sister and I would go shopping in October for the perfect costume, or we would start thinking of ways to create our own costumes for trick-or-treating through the decorated campsites. Sometimes, we ended up with more candy than we ever got on the real Halloween night.**

**The campground owner would take everyone on a haunted hayride through the forest when it was dark. Monsters, ghosts, and people dressed as killers from horror movies would jump out of the bushes and scare us when it was too dark to see anyone jumping out at us. After the hayride, we would all meet at the picnic area for warm apple cider, a bonfire, and ghost stories.**

**On the second day of the Halloween in July celebration, we always had a pumpkin carving contest. Since pumpkins are not fully grown in July, everyone who wanted to carve had to be really creative. My family always bought the biggest, ripest watermelons to hollow out and carve like they were pumpkins. Some families used cantaloupe and others even carved jack-o-lantern faces into potatoes!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the theme of this story?**

---

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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.



### My Favorite Holiday Answer Guide:

**My family has always loved to celebrate Halloween. We loved Halloween so much that we even celebrated it in the summer.**

**Every July, my mother would take my sister and me camping at a small campground about four hours from our house. The campground owners loved hosting different activities that were fun for the entire family.**

**My family's favorite activity was Halloween in July. We would spend the entire month of June thinking of ways that we could decorate our camper for Halloween. We would dig out the decorations from the basement closet and open up the orange bins to see what was inside. We would create sketches of ways to turn our campsite into a haunted graveyard, a mad scientist's laboratory, or a werewolf's den. The year we won first place in the contest, we had built a giant spider web out of rope and fake cobwebs. We put a fog machine behind it and dressed up as spiders. Our campsite looked like a big web crawling with evil spiders.**

**Creating Halloween costumes was my favorite part of Halloween in July. My sister and I would go shopping in October for the perfect costume, or we would start thinking of ways to create our own costumes for trick-or-treating through the decorated campsites. Sometimes, we ended up with more candy than we ever got on the real Halloween night.**

**The campground owner would take everyone on a haunted hayride through the forest when it was dark. Monsters, ghosts, and people dressed as killers from horror movies would jump out of the bushes and scare us when it was too dark to see anyone jumping out at us. After the hayride, we would all meet at the picnic area for warm apple cider, a bonfire, and ghost stories.**

**On the second day of the Halloween in July celebration, we always had a pumpkin carving contest. Since pumpkins are not fully grown in July, everyone who wanted to carve had to be really creative. My family always bought the biggest, ripest watermelons to hollow out and carve like they were pumpkins. Some families used cantaloupe and others even carved jack-o-lantern faces into potatoes!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the theme of this story?**

**The theme is celebrating holidays as a family and the fun that can be experienced even during non-traditional times like Halloween in July.**

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

**The family spends a great deal of time planning and then celebrating Halloween in July. Even though it is not the traditional Halloween that takes place in October, the family has just as much fun – sometimes even more. Experiencing the holiday together is the best part.**