



# THEME

Central idea of a story

# Theme

A thought or  
insight about life  
that a story  
conveys

A lesson that the  
character learns that  
can apply to the world  
around us  
(NOT just to the story)

# Theme

## Direct

- Theme is clearly stated within the story
- Rarely stated directly within the text
- Ex: When Miss Hagan tells you that you will likely do better on your test if you study.

## Implied

- The reader has to infer based on what the author tells them
- Themes are mostly hinted at or suggested within the text
- Ex: When Miss Hagan tells you that you have a test on Thursday.

A theme is  
NOT just one  
word!!!



# Topics for THEME are universal ideas

–Love

–Hate

–Betrayal

–Joy

–Change

–Friendship

–Fear

–Family

–Society



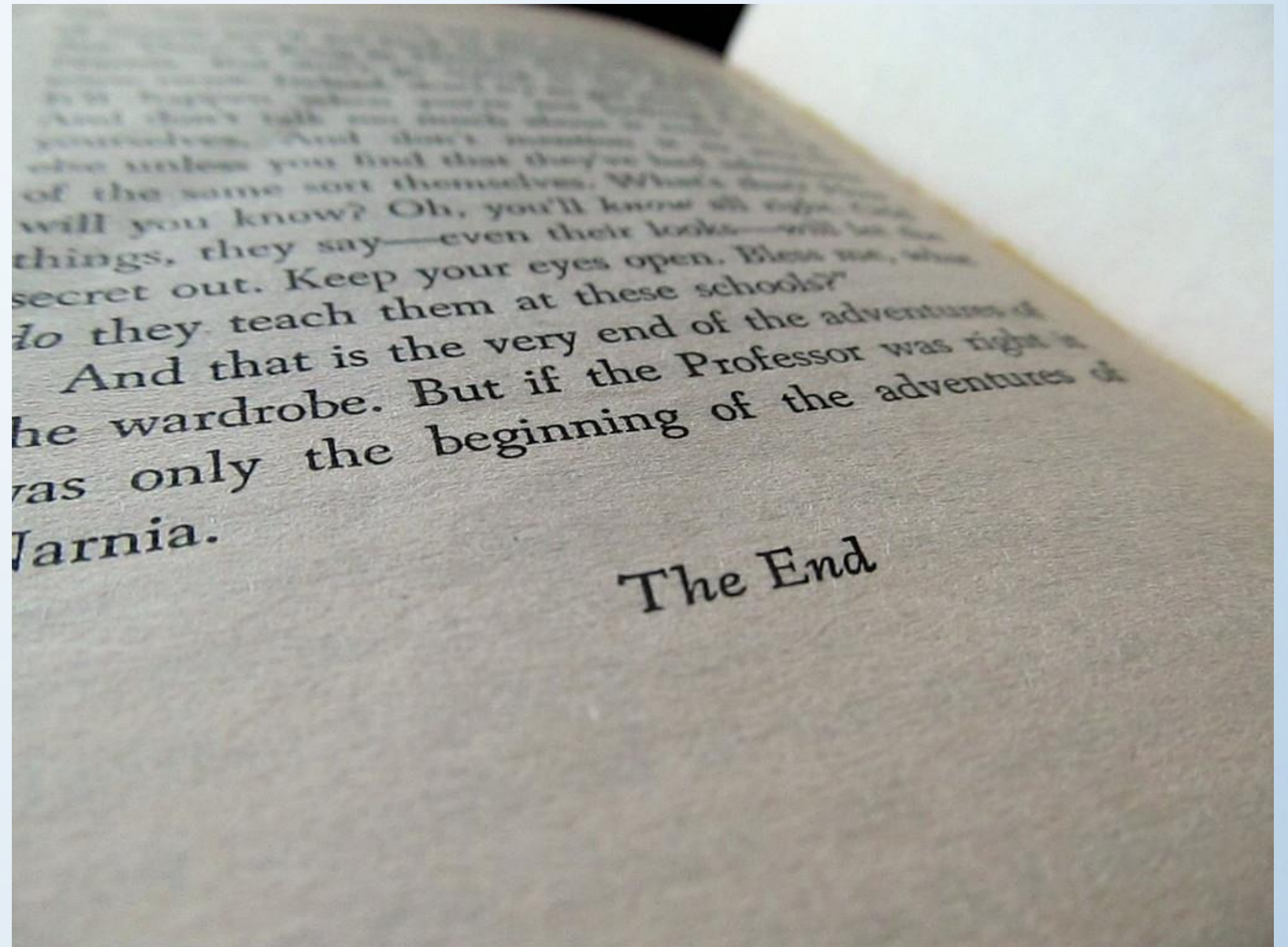
# How do we determine the theme?

- The outcome of the conflict & the effects on the characters
- Knowledge or insights that characters gain throughout the story
- The story's title

# Step 1

Finish reading the story/novel

& create a list of topics in the story.



## Step 2

Pick a topic and write an sentence about what the author believes about said topic

- The author believes that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Not specific only to the story. – NO character names!!

## Step 3

Cross out “The author believes that” and revise as needed

- ~~The author believes that~~ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Revise
  - Capitalize
  - Make sure it makes sense
  - Punctuation

## Step 4

Be able to back up  
your theme with  
evidence from the  
text!!!

