



The Found Wallet: Choose the Path

Mission: In this story, YOU choose what the main character does. Explore every path, collect evidence of how each choice makes Mateo feel, and figure out the lesson the story teaches.

Big question: How do a character's choices and their results reveal a story's theme?

★ Warm-up: Would you rather?

Choose and explain your reason.

Find \$5 on the playground: keep it or turn it in? ✓ **Any reasoned answer.**

What does "doing the right thing when no one is watching" mean? ✓ **Being honest even if you wouldn't get caught.**

Key vocabulary

Consequence	What happens because of a choice.
Conflict	The problem a character faces, including inner struggles.
Character trait	A word describing what a character is like (honest, selfish).
Theme	The lesson the story teaches about life.

1 Box 1

Predict

PREDICTION Which choice do you predict will make Mateo feel the best in the end?

☐ Keeping the money ☐ Giving it to the bus driver ☐ Returning it himself

Explore every path

In the simulator: Explore all THREE endings (use "Go back to the big decision").

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Consequence chart

How does Mateo feel at the end of each path? Sort the choices.

Sort: Keeps the money • Gives it to the bus driver • Returns it himself

Guilty and uneasy	Proud and at peace
Keeps the money	Gives it to the bus driver Returns it himself

3 Box 3

Clues about feelings

In "The Heavy Game" ending, what does "It felt too heavy to hold" suggest?

☐ Mateo feels guilty, not that the game weighs a lot ☐ The game box is very large ☐ Mateo is tired

✓ **Mateo feels guilty, not that the game weighs a lot**

4 Box 4

Find the theme

You predicted: _____. Across all three endings, what lesson does the author teach?

- ☐ Being honest brings peace, even when no one is watching. ☐ Always ride the bus. ☐ Video games are fun.
☐ Never pick things up off the ground.

✓ **Being honest brings peace, even when no one is watching.**

5 Box 5

Theme with evidence (CER)

What is the theme of "The Found Wallet"? Support it with a quote.

Claim

Look for: States a theme about honesty; at least 8 words

Evidence

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

Reasoning

Look for: Explains; Connects to how the choice made him feel; at least 12 words

6 Box 6

Legend: author's choice Legend only

Why do you think the author made Mrs. Delgado's money be for her medicine? How does that detail strengthen the theme?

Look for: Explains the money was important; Connects to the theme; at least 15 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do a character's choices and their results reveal a story's theme?

Look for: Authors reveal themes through the choices characters make and what happens because of them. Comparing Mateo's different endings shows that honest choices bring peace and respect, while dishonest ones bring guilt, even when no one is watching.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1WH-E
 Investigator	P7S-I

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "The theme is one word, like friendship." That is a topic.
- "A summary includes everything that happened." It includes only the most important events.
- "There is only one correct theme." Stories can have several themes if the text supports them.