



Theme Tracker: The Broken Violin

Mission: A theme develops across a whole story, not in one line. Track how the author builds the theme of "The Broken Violin" from the conflict, through the turning point, to the result.

Big question: How is a theme conveyed through particular details across a story?

★ Warm-up: Story mountain

For any story you know, name each part.

Conflict ✓ **The problem.**

Turning point ✓ **The big decision or change.**

Key vocabulary

Theme	The central message about life.
Turning point	The moment a character makes a key decision or changes.
Develop	Build up over the course of a text.
Conflict	The struggle or problem.

1 Box 1

Track the details

In the simulator: Mark the temptation (■), the turning point (■), and the result (■).

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

The symbol

At the end, Malik feels "as if he had set down something heavy." What was the heavy thing?

☐ The guilt of keeping a secret ☐ The violin case ☐ His backpack

✓ **The guilt of keeping a secret**

3 Box 3

Theme statement

Which theme statement is best supported by ALL the tracked details?

☐ Telling the truth takes courage, but it brings peace. ☐ Violins break easily. ☐ Teachers always forgive students.
☐ Never touch school instruments.

✓ **Telling the truth takes courage, but it brings peace.**

4 Box 4

Develop the theme (two quotes)

Explain how the author develops the theme through Malik's choice.

Theme

Look for: States the theme; at least 10 words

Evidence from the conflict and the result

Look for: an exact quote from the text (2 quotes); at least 16 words

Explanation

Look for: Explains the conflict; Explains the result; at least 18 words

5 Box 5

Legend: Ms. Rivera Legend only

How does Ms. Rivera's response help develop the theme? Quote her words.

Look for: Connects to the theme; an exact quote from the text; at least 16 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How is a theme conveyed through particular details across a story?

Look for: Authors develop themes through details: the conflict a character faces, the choice they make at the turning point, and the results of that choice. Tracking these details across the story reveals the theme and gives you evidence to support it.

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	GNA-E
 Investigator	77C-I
 Legend	18J-L

Watch for these misconceptions

- "An inference is a guess." It is a conclusion based on evidence.
- "Any quote about the topic works as evidence." Evidence must support the specific claim.
- "The theme is stated in the last sentence." Themes are usually developed across the whole text.