

Sixth Grade Reading Themes

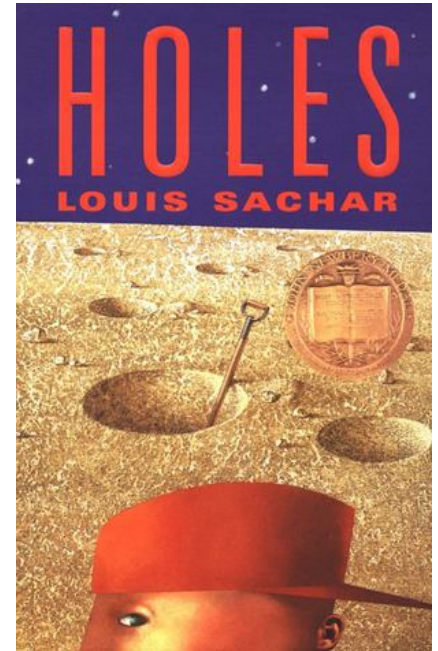
Identity

Identity might be defined as uniqueness, distinctiveness, individuality, or personality. The identity of a person or group is rarely static, but instead is constantly being changed by internal and external forces.

Guiding Questions:

- How do we form our identities?
- How is identity shaped by relationships and experiences?
- What can you learn about yourself by studying the lives of others?
- When should an individual take a stand in opposition to an individual or larger group?
- In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?

Theme Novel: *Holes*



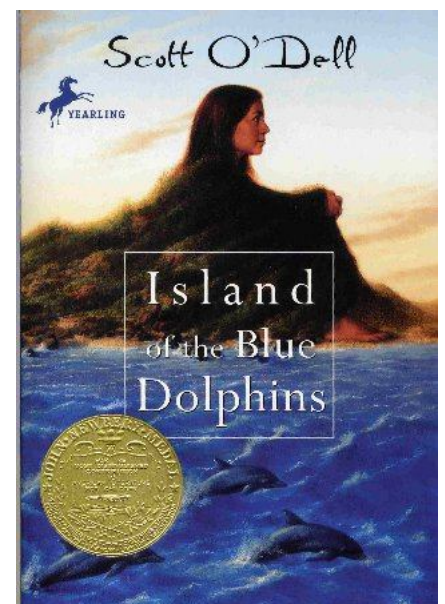
Survival

Humans can adapt to a variety of environments. Continued existence in those environments is often dependent upon both determination and ingenuity. Through prior knowledge and trial and error, a person can use the resources of an unfamiliar place or situation in order to survive.

Guiding Questions:

- What is courage? Is it necessary to survival?
- What personal attributes enhance a person's chances of survival?
- How can a person's decisions and actions change his/her life?
- How do surroundings affect one's survival?
- Are human interactions necessary for survival?

Theme Novel: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell



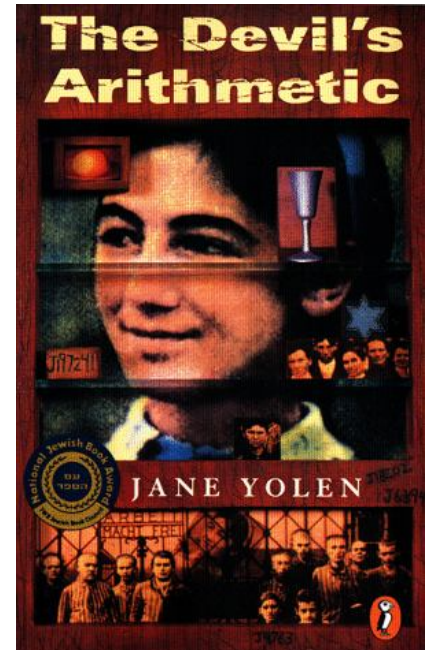
Adversity, Conflict, and Change

Adversity might be defined as a state of difficulty or unfavorable fortune. When a conflict occurs, characters often need to change their attitudes or behaviors in order to cope with the new situation.

Guiding Questions:

- How does conflict lead to change?
- How does an individual's point of view affect the way they deal with conflict?
- How might it feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life?
- How does conflict influence an individual's decisions and actions?
- What is community and what are the individual's responsibility to the community as well as the community's responsibility to the individual?

Theme Novel: *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen



Actions and Consequences

In this unit, we will meet characters who are faced with difficult decisions. Some decisions have more far-reaching consequences than others. When these individuals are faced with options, they must evaluate which choices will bring desired outcomes. These characters, like us, can exert *some* control over situations through the decisions they make, but they must be willing to accept the consequences of those decisions.

Guiding Questions:

- What is the relationship between decisions and consequences?
- How do we know how to make good decisions?
- How can a person's decisions and actions change his/her life?
- How do the decisions and actions of characters reveal their personalities?
- How do decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the different perspectives of the people involved?

Theme Novel: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

