

Name _____



Linked Lessons

Directions: Read both passages carefully and think about what lesson or message each passage is teaching. Identify the **theme of each passage individually**. Then, write one sentence explaining the **common theme** that connects them both.

Passage 1: *The Heavy Backpack*

Jon carried a backpack stuffed with books, sports gear, and snacks every day. It slowed him down, and he often arrived late to class, out of breath.

One morning, his teacher asked why he carried so much. Jon explained he wanted to always be prepared for anything. The teacher gently suggested that sometimes carrying too much can make us weaker, not stronger.

That afternoon, Jon removed the extra weight and realized he could move more freely. He felt relieved and promised himself to carry only what he truly needed.

Passage 2: *The Crowded Desk*

Lila's desk was piled with papers, pencils, and old projects. When her class began a new science experiment, she couldn't find the materials she needed. Frustrated, she shoved the mess aside, but it spilled onto the floor. Her friend helped her sort the items, tossing what wasn't necessary.

With a clear desk, Lila could finally focus and complete her project with ease. She noticed how much calmer she felt without the clutter. That day, she decided to keep her space simple and organized.

Theme of Passage 1: _____

Theme of Passage 2: _____

Write one sentence stating the **common theme** that connects both passages:
