

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Tracing Themes

**Directions:** Read the passage slowly and carefully. Reread the passage, this time paying attention to repeated ideas, character struggles, and overall messages. Identify a possible **theme** (the deeper message or lesson the text suggests). Cite at least **two lines of text** that support the theme you chose. Then, write a short explanation of how the evidence supports your theme.

### Passage (Adapted, Original)

The campfire burned low, sending sparks into the starry sky. Leah wrapped the blanket tighter around her shoulders, listening to her friends' laughter echo through the trees. For the first time that week, she felt warmth, not from the fire, but from belonging. Just days earlier, she had sat at the edge of the group, unsure if anyone would notice her silence. Now, a friend leaned over to share a marshmallow, smiling as if she had always been part of the circle. Leah smiled back, realizing that sometimes, being welcomed begins with a single gesture of kindness.

1. What possible theme can you identify from the passage?

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2. Which two lines from the passage best support your theme?

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3. How does Leah's change from the beginning to the end of the passage reinforce this theme?

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4. In your own words, explain what lesson a reader could take away from Leah's experience.

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