

Theme Aligned Answer Key

A correct response should include:

- A paragraph built around a **clear, identifiable theme**.
- Descriptive details that **enhance, symbolize, or reflect** that theme.
- Consistent mood, cohesive structure, and intentional word choice.

Sample Acceptable Paragraph (Theme: Resilience): Thin cracks ran along the stone wall, yet each vine clinging to it stretched upward with steady determination. Even the smallest leaves pushed past the rough surface to reach the sunlight warming the top edge. A soft wind bent the plants for a moment, but they straightened immediately, whispering against the stones. Their quiet persistence made the battered wall seem almost alive with strength. (Any paragraph whose details reinforce a chosen theme is acceptable.)

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students learn how description can serve a deeper purpose by reinforcing the theme of a narrative or analytical piece.
- **Differentiation:**
 - Provide theme-definition cards for students who need support understanding abstract concepts.
 - Offer sentence stems such as "This detail shows the theme by..." for struggling writers.
- **Engagement Tips:**
 - Invite students to identify themes in short mentor excerpts before writing.
 - Allow small groups to brainstorm symbolic details for each theme.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Ask students to insert their paragraph into a longer narrative and explain how it supports the overall meaning.
 - Challenge advanced students to revise their paragraph using a more subtle or layered thematic approach.