

Theme And Dialogue Match Answer Key

1. Change. The characters discuss taking a new direction and doing things differently.
2. Friendship. Leo shows loyalty and support after Quinn's mistake.
3. Change. The conversation focuses on new beginnings and transitions.
4. Freedom. Nia describes running as a source of release and personal openness.
5. Friendship. The dialogue highlights trust, connection, and showing up for someone.

Note: Student answers for the written dialogue will vary. Teachers should check that the theme is **implied**, not stated.

Teacher's Guide

Focus Skill: Using dialogue to reinforce a **theme** subtly through tone, ideas, and character choices without naming the theme.

Teaching Tips

- Explain that themes are big ideas like **freedom**, **friendship**, and **change** that guide a story.
- Model how a line of dialogue can hint at a theme through metaphors, decisions, or character attitudes.
- Encourage students to avoid over-explaining. Subtlety strengthens theme-driven writing.

Engagement Ideas

- Have students work in pairs to guess each other's chosen theme from their written dialogue.
- Use a "theme sort" station activity where students sort additional dialogue cards into the three categories.
- Allow groups to rewrite one dialogue to fit a different theme as a creative challenge.