



Strings of Hope

Directions: Read the passage carefully. A **theme** is the central idea or message the author wants to share through the story. Themes are not stated directly; instead, readers must look at the character's actions, challenges, and choices to figure them out. After reading, answer the questions below by identifying possible themes and backing them up with **textual evidence** from the story.

The Broken Violin

Clara's violin had been her most treasured possession ever since her grandfather gave it to her on her tenth birthday. She practiced every afternoon, filling her home with soft melodies. One day, during a rushed rehearsal, the bow snapped in her hands, and the violin clattered to the ground, leaving a long crack along its body.

Tears welled up in Clara's eyes, and she thought about quitting the school concert. Without her grandfather's gift, she felt like her music had been silenced. But her best friend, Mateo, reminded her that music didn't come from the violin—it came from her. He offered her his old instrument to practice with.

At first, Clara was hesitant, but she decided to accept the loan. She poured her emotions into every note, and when the night of the concert arrived, her performance moved the audience to tears. Though the violin she played wasn't her grandfather's, Clara realized that his love and her own determination were the true sources of her music.

1. What is one possible central theme of the story?
2. Which lines or events in the story support this theme? Quote directly or summarize.
3. Is there another theme you could find in the story? Explain briefly.
4. How does Clara's change from the beginning to the end of the story reveal the theme?