

Name _____

Whiskers of Wisdom Answer Key

Highlighted/underlined clues:

1. "She'd been leaving tuna out, hoping her cat would return."
2. "A muddy, trembling Whiskers crept forward."
3. "Love doesn't fade with distance or fear. It waits, patient and strong."

Theme Statement (Sample): *Love and loyalty endure even when fear or distance come between them.*

Reflection Question Guidance:

1. Students may cite Emma's repeated actions (feeding, searching, comforting) as key clues.
2. Emma's change from worry to joy shows emotional resilience.
3. The story encourages empathy, patience, and unconditional care.

Teacher Notes / Guide

Objective: Students will learn to **infer theme** by tracing how character actions, dialogue, and story outcomes reveal a deeper message. This activity reinforces text evidence use for **theme identification** rather than simple summary.

Teaching Tips:

- Before reading, discuss what "theme" means: an idea or life lesson expressed through story events.
- During reading, prompt students to highlight *moments of change or realization*.
- Afterward, have students share their clues aloud and debate which one best represents the theme.
- Encourage writing multiple theme statements, then refining them to a single, focused sentence.

Extension: Ask students to compare this passage's theme to a personal experience or to a theme from another story involving separation and reunion.