

## Tips for writing on theme:

1. Read through the poem a few times.
2. Ask yourself questions:
  - What's going on in the poem?
  - Is there a problem/conflict? Is it resolved or does the poet offer some sort of solution (is it realistic/unrealistic?)
  - Is there a protagonist in the poem? Who is the speaker?
  - Does the speaker want something? What is his/her attitude towards the subject? (tone)
  - What point is the author trying to make about his/her subject? What is the poet saying about human nature?
3. After you have answered a few of these questions, formulate a theme statement. Remember, you want to write a complete sentence that is a realistic statement that expresses the author's message (theme is not one word).
4. Jot down or underline words or lines in the poem that convey the theme. This is your evidence.
5. When you begin your paragraph, put the theme statement in the topic sentence. Then provide examples and explanation to prove that this is the theme of the poem.