



“Stop the Sun”

Focus on Theme



Essential Question

Why is a story's theme important?

The theme explains the meaning, moral, or message in the story. The theme allows the author to make a point (teach a lesson) through the writing.



Background to the Story



This story is about a father's experience as a Vietnam veteran.

Create a K-W-L Chart about the Vietnam War.

What do you know, want to know, learn?

<u>K</u> now	<u>W</u> ant to Know	<u>L</u> earn

Background to the Story

Now open your textbook to page 48.
Look at the timeline for the Vietnam
War.

When did the conflict begin?

When did the United States become
involved?

Do you know anyone who fought in
Vietnam?

Background to the Story

The country-duo Big and Rich wrote a song to commemorate a tragic day for the United States during the Vietnam War—"The 8th of November."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozpdBvB0hek>

Vocabulary Preview

The following vocabulary words appear in the reading selection:

chant

dry

founder

inert

persist

Choose three of these words and use them in an original sentence.

Checking the Vocabulary

Check your sentences to see if they make sense.

Chant: something sung or spoken in a rhythmic monotone

Dry: direct and without emotion; matter-of-fact

Founder: to get stuck; beat down

Inert: having no power to move or act; lifeless

Persist: to continue stubbornly

Looking For a Theme

As stated, a theme is the meaning, moral, or message that the writer wishes to convey.

One way to identify the theme is to pay attention to the lessons learned by the main character.

As we read, think about Terry's experience with his father and the lesson Terry learns about life.

Understanding the Theme

Before we begin reading, copy the chart below. As we read, look for clues to complete the chart.

Key Element	Clues
Title	
Characters	
Conflict	
Words/Phrases	
Themes:	