

"Two Islands"

TDSC for THEME:

T – Topic Sentence

D - Def. of theme, state the theme in quotation marks

S – support (use quotes when possible / explain your support and how it relates back to theme)

C - conclusion

- (1) What do you think is the theme or lesson of this story? Explain. (TDSC)
- (2) Given the message of this story, what do you think should appear on the sign? Why do you think the author left the sign blank?

"Two Islands"

Theme: the main message or life lesson that the author wishes to teach you.

Some examples of theme in "Two Islands":

- "Money isn't everything"
- "Money can't buy happiness"
- "Be happy with what you have"
- "Preserve the land"
- "You don't have to keep up with the rest of the world to be an important part of it"
- "Bigger isn't always better"
- "Greed can often lead to destruction."
- "Having too much is not always a good thing."

Grade 8 Language Arts
Sample Theme answer in "Two Islands"

In the story "Two Islands" by Ivan Gantschev there is a very important theme. Theme is the message or lesson about life that the author wishes to teach the reader. In this story one possible theme is "Money cannot buy happiness." There are many examples to support this theme.

To begin, the island of Greynel desired to achieve the status of being the richest and most famous little island in the world. One would think that with this status everyone would be extremely happy. What they found, however, was that their lives were not what they expected. Their lives became very complicated, fast paced and hectic. This rat-race of a lifestyle with "plenty" of everything but no time to enjoy it illustrates that money cannot buy happiness.

Another example of this theme is the side- effect of this fanatic industrialized economy. As the island grew with the building of roads and factories the fields and forests turned into a few tiny parks. The people began to look longingly at the other island, Greenel, who lived a simple life and left their beautiful land unchanged. Greenel was truly happy as opposed to Greynel who were becoming dissatisfied with what they had in their rich and famous lives proving once again that money cannot buy happiness.

Finally, this theme is supported when the once happy and pleased people of Greynel became a disgruntled group who began to protest against their leader because they became unhappy with his leadership.. The atmosphere of resentment and fear towards the dictator-type leader at Greyney certainly exemplifies the theme.

In conclusion, the theme of "money cannot buy happiness" is quite apparent in this story.

