

FINDING THE THEME

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Maria and the Math Test

Maria settled into her seat. “This is hard!” she thought to herself. She had missed two weeks of school when she had the chicken pox, and now she had to take a math test after school. Her teacher, Mr. Casteel, was correcting her classmates’ tests at his desk. She could see that he was marking a lot of answers wrong with his red pen.

“Maria,” Mr. Casteel said. “I have to step out to speak with the principal. I’ll be back in ten minutes.”

“Okay, Mr. Casteel,” Maria answered, looking up from her test.

When Mr. Casteel left, Maria realized that the answer key to the test was on his desk. It would have been so easy to look at the answers. Maria thought about it for a brief moment, but then she continued working on her test.

“I may not do very well on this test,” she said to herself, “but at least I’ll know I was honest.”

1. What is the theme of this story?

2. Which of these titles best reflects the theme of the story?
- a. Trust your parents.
 - b. Stay in school.
 - c. Honesty is best.
 - d. Math is hard.

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Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

Will's Love

When Will walked up the walkway
To his house
His head whirled
With worries.

His teacher yelled at him.
His friends were mad.
Even his dog growled at him.
He wanted a hug.

But when he opened the door
And saw his little sister's face —
So sad as she sat on the sofa,
He knew he could forget all that.

She needed that hug
And he would be the one to give it.
He would be the big brother
Because he had a big heart.

3. What is the theme of this poem?

4. Which of these titles best reflects the theme of the poem?
- Will Comes Home
 - Being a Big Brother
 - Turn the Other Cheek
 - The Sun Will Shine Again