Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT IS THE THEME OR CENTRAL IDEA IN MY NOVEL?**

***Theme or Central Idea – The main idea, message or purpose of a literary work***

When it comes to theme or central idea, think about these questions:

1. What does the main character learn?
2. What does the author want me to understand?

***Plot – The sequence of events that make up a story***

***Genre – A category or type of literature***

**I can explain the difference between genre, plot and theme/central idea.**

* Define genre, plot and theme.
* Put examples in different categories.
* Identify a theme in a short story or novel.

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Below are examples from the most recent one-pagers. In the blank next to each phrase:

* Write a “1” for central idea.
* Write a “2” for plot.
* Write a “3” for genre.
* Write an “4” if it is not theme, plot or genre.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ To be brave and not give up

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ To be loyal to family and friends

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Adventure

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ When someone breaks the rules of school, there are consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Realistic Fiction

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mystery

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stick with things

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Never give up

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t shoplift

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Everything is ending – a zombie virus is spreading

***What do you notice about the phrases labeled with a “C” letter?***

Below are examples from the most recent one-pagers. In the blank next to each phrase:

* Write a “C” for central idea.
* Write a “P” for plot.
* Write a “G” for genre.
* Write an “N” if it is not theme, plot or genre.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Erodas

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time Travel

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fantasy

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dinosaurs

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Luke is trying to find a way to get the government to change the population law

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t take “special candy” from strangers

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Out of the many bad things, sometimes there are good things

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t trust too many people

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Don’t judge a book by its cover

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hazel Grace is able to find friendship with a boy named Augustus Waters

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1.What is a theme/central idea in *Marley and Me*? (Green Books, “Lessons Learned” – page 147)

***The theme or central idea is….***

***I believe this is the theme/central idea because it says in the text…***

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2.What is a theme or central idea in the novel you are reading? How do you know?

***The theme or central idea is….***

***I believe this is the theme/central idea because it says in the text…***

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