

# Theme

**Theme:** the subject or main idea of a piece of writing

Poem Example:

**Nothing Gold Can Stay**  
**By: Robert Frost**

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.

Themes:  
Change  
Impermanence

**Junkyards**  
**By: Julian Lee Rayford**

You take any junkyard  
And you will see it filled with  
Symbols of progress  
Remarkable things discarded

What civilization when ahead on  
All its onward-impelling implements  
Are given over to the junkyards  
To rust

The supreme implement, the wheel  
Is conspicuous in the junkyards

The axels and the levers  
The cogs and the flywheels  
All the parts of dynamos  
All the parts of motors  
Fall the parts of rusting

Themes:  
Progress  
Recycling  
Life Cycles  
Archeology of junk



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