

Nose for Themes

**Themes grow out of human life experiences.**

**Themes grow out of the characters, the setting and/or the plot.**

**Themes are hidden messages that come from the authors.**

**Themes are the big ideas that authors want to share with their readers.**

As you begin your second literature circle novel, you are to think about the following questions because these are the questions you will be asked to answer at the close of our final literature circle group discussion. You need to be prepared to answer and discuss these questions with your group as well as have them written on paper. Use *all* of the resources you have gathered and will gather, such as the questions you and the class have asked, the information you have learned about Katherine Paterson, the responses to which you have responded in your portfolio, and your notes you have gathered.

Questions

- What is the theme of the book? Why? (Show support from the text and from your background knowledge.)
- Why do you think the author chose the theme for this book? (Remember to include what you know from your background knowledge and what you know about Katherine Paterson.)
- Think about the two books you have read for your literature circles. How are they alike? How are they different? Find a common theme. Explain what the theme is and use support from the books.
- What are the questions, wonderments, or concerns that you would like to ask the author?