

## M.U.G. #1

This year writing will be a major focus, it's important to understand grammar rules, without them you're writing is difficult to understand.

Once a week we'll begin class with one of these sets of M.U.G. sentences, M.U.G. by the way is an abbreviation of "mechanics, usage and grammar"

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period  
inside quote marks

# Lit. Term – #1

**Theme:** An insight about human life that's revealed in a literary work.

- Theme is rarely directly stated by author
- Good lit. = lots of possible, provable themes
- Ask, "What's the author's message to me?"

# Lit. Term – #1

Warning! Warning! Warning!

- Theme is always more than one word

"Friendship"

"Bravery"

"Sexism"

- If your theme sounds like a Hallmark card or a fortune cookie message, you need to dig deeper to find a unique, compelling theme.

## Steps to take when determining theme:

1. Read the ENTIRE text
2. List out the possible topics covered
  - a. One word is okay here
  - b. Avoid nouns like fish or school. Should be more like “ideas”
3. Pick a topic and build the beginning theme
  - a. The author believes that \_\_\_\_\_ (<---- the topic)

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(what they believe about it)

EX: The author of Finding Nemo believes that courage can be learned and fostered with confidence and the support of friends.

4. Cross out the words, “The author believes that”
5. What you are left with is the theme.

Lesson

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# sycophant (noun)

**definition:** someone who uses flattery to try to get what he/she wants from an authority figure

**synonym:** flatterer/schmoozer

**antonym:** rebel

**sentence:** The professor recognized the overly attentive student as nothing more than a sycophant.

# pernicious (adj.)

definition: intending to cause harm

synonym: harmful/dangerous

antonym: kind/benevolent

sentence: The pernicious ice storm attacked the small coastal town.



# ubiquitous (adj.)

definition: appearing everywhere

synonym: **omnipresent/pervasive**

antonym: **scarce/rare**

sentence: Baseball caps are ubiquitous among our male student population.

# non sequitur (noun)

definition: a statement that does not logically follow a conversation's flow

synonym: **interruption**

antonym: **support**

sentence: One of the kids in my group of friends is so random; he constantly drops non sequiturs into our conversations.

# diatribe (noun)

definition: a forceful and bitter verbal attack

synonym: rant

antonym: conversation

sentence: The candidate for governor lost voter approval when her diatribe about immigration was posted on YouTube.