



Themes in *Backbiters*




Theme of a novel: one of the main messages that the author weaves throughout the story (different from the plot, which is the story/action of the novel, though often intertwined with the plot)

Examples:

Wonder, by RJ Palacios: don't judge people by appearance

Tell the Wolves I'm Home, by Carol Rifka Blunt: family is important

Draw a line from each theme to the show if it is a major theme in *Backbiters* or if it is not, understanding that different readers glean different messages from any piece of literature; if you disagree with the "answers," be prepared to show textual evidence and explain your answer. The first one is done for you.

Theme in <i>Backbiters</i>	Potential Themes	Not a theme in <i>Backbiters</i>
	1. Choose carefully to whom to be loyal 2. We must protect the Earth's environment 3. Crime doesn't pay 4. Ethnic understanding is beneficial 5. Technology is dangerous 6. Technology is great 7. Anti-bullying 8. Physical health brings emotional health 9. Family is not necessarily biological 10. Vanity is a downfall 11. Coping with anger 12. Power is an illusion 13. It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved 14. Patience is a virtue 15. Friends are valuable	

1. Which theme of *Backbiters* is most compelling to you and why?
2. Which theme needed to be better developed and why?
3. What theme would you write about if you were writing a novel and why?