

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

# The Call of the Wild A Brief Thematic Experience

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

A theme discovered within a piece of literature is an *insight* about life or human nature that a writer presents to the reader through the characters and their experiences in the story.

Read the situations below, and then categorize them into the themes that they might represent. Be aware that each situation may reflect more than one of the given themes, but place the name of each person into the area that most closely reflects the theme illustrated by that person's situation. Be prepared to explain.

**John** decides to start turning in his homework on time because his new Language Arts teacher will not accept it late.

**Larry** has always done well in school with little need to study. However, after his score on the last vocabulary test, he starts putting in some extra time at home preparing for the next one.

**Ben** would have never acted like a bone-head in class if he had thought his teacher would really call his dad. When he saw his teacher's name on the phone Caller ID display, he knew he was in big trouble.

**Tina** begins bringing a sweater to language arts class because it is often too cold for her comfort

**Lori** takes her classmate's pencil when he isn't looking. She knows she will get a detention if she shows up to her next class again without one

**Pete** discovered that by studying his vocabulary 15 minutes every night, he could do much better than he had on the tests.

**René** discovered that her teacher was serious about completing her reading log. When she didn't, she wasn't permitted to present her project even though she had spent hours working on it.

**Tony** risks getting a zero on an assignment by copying his friend's work. He knows that if his grade gets any lower, his parents will ground him.

**Terry** discovered that the reading made much more sense when she reread confusing passages. She had never read anything so difficult before, but found out she could handle it by applying this reading strategy.

**Barry** put his own name on another student's paper that he found on the floor. Even though he knew the other student would get a zero, he knew his own grade would suffer because he had forgotten to complete the assignment himself. Finders Keepers!

**Jerry** knew that homework only counts 15% of his overall grade and figured that he could get by without doing it. As a result, he did poorly on other parts of his school-work and ended up repeating the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Even though he had been warned, he never expected it to really happen.

Experience is the greatest teacher.

Survivors are those who adapt to changing circumstances.

The urge to survive is greater than the moral law of human civilization.

