

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Strategy: Theme

A theme is a central idea that runs through a text. Most books have several themes. Think about what we have read so far in Egghead. What are some of the themes that you have noticed?

- bullying
- action vs. inaction
- bravery/courage
- personal struggles (that others may know nothing about)
- self-esteem
- friendship
- loyalty
- power
- choice
- peer pressure

February 14th, 2017

Egghead - Caroline Pignat

Theme: Power

One of the central themes in the book Egghead is that of power. Many of the relationships between characters in the book are based on an imbalance of power. One character will have power over another and this creates conflict.

The main bully in the story is Shane and he is always trying to find ways to maintain his power over others. We see this when he follows Katie in the hallway - trying to intimidate her, and when he forces Devan to complete all the work for their science fair project. We also see this when he says to Devan "You don't even know what the hell you're talking about." in reference to Katie and Will's project, when in fact it is Shane who doesn't understand it.

These actions and comments from Shane make me think that he is trying to keep power over others because he feels insecure himself. We have seen in the story that he doesn't do very well in school, and there have been hints that he may come from a home that is violent and poor. It seems to me that he may be trying to cover up his own situation by maintaining control over others. It may also be a reflection of the lack of control he feels over his own life and situation that drives him to want to control others.