Critical Concepts 6.2
Literary Formative Assessments

Quick Quiz: Determining Theme or Central Idea
Format: 5 questions, mix of multiple-choice and short response, 8–10 min max.

Formative Quiz – RL.6.2 (Theme, Key Details, Summary)

Name: _____   Date: _____

Part 1: Vocabulary Matching (5 points)

Match each word with its correct definition. Write the correct letter on the line.

1. ___ Theme	**A.** A brief statement of the most important ideas in a text
2. ___ Key Detail	**B.** An idea or message the author wants to communicate about life or people
3. ___ Summary	**C.** A belief or feeling that cannot be proven
4. ___ Opinion	**D.** A specific part of the text that supports the theme or central idea
5. ___ Convey	**E.** To show or communicate an idea clearly

Part 2: Reading Passage (5 points)

Read the short passage and answer the questions below.

In the forest, a small bird worked tirelessly to build a home in the tallest tree. Every day, she gathered twigs and leaves while the other animals laughed at her. "That's too high," they said. "You'll never finish!" But when a storm came, the bird's nest stayed safe and dry, while the others' homes were ruined. The animals apologized, and the bird kindly helped them rebuild.

6. What is the theme of this passage?
    A. Trees are stronger than animals
    B. It's better to be small than large
    C. Hard work and determination pay off
    D. Storms always cause damage

7. Which sentence is a key detail that supports the theme?

      A. The tree was the tallest in the forest.
      B. The bird built her nest alone, while others laughed.
      C. The storm came at night.
      D. Animals like to play in the forest.

8. Which sentence is an example of a summary that is distinct from opinion?
      A. I think the bird is the best animal because she's smart.
      B. The bird is clearly better than the other animals.
      C. A bird works hard to build a nest despite others' doubts, and later helps them after a storm damages their homes.
      D. The animals should've been nicer, and they deserved what they got.

9. True or False: The theme of a story is usually stated directly by the author.
 Answer: _____

10. In your own words, write 1–2 sentences summarizing the passage above. (Be objective.)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Exit Ticket Options – RL.6.2

You can rotate through these or allow student choice

Exit Ticket Option 1: Theme Quick Check

Name: _____   Date: _____

1. What is the **theme or central idea** of the literary text you read today?

_____

2. Write **two key details** from the story that support this theme:

- _____
- _____

Exit Ticket Option 2: Summary Sentence Frame

Name: _____   Date: _____

Use the frame below to write an objective summary:

In the story "_____," the theme is _____.
This is shown when _____ and
_____.

Exit Ticket Option 3: Vocabulary Application

Name: _____   Date: _____

Choose **two of the vocabulary words** and use them correctly in a sentence about the story you read:
(theme, convey, summary, opinion, key detail, judgement)

- Word 1: _____
  Sentence: _____

- Word 2: _____
  Sentence: _____

Exit Ticket Option 4: Theme & Summary Combo

Name: _____   Date: _____

1. What **message** or **lesson** did the main character learn?

2. Write a **1-sentence summary** of the text that leaves out your opinions: