

COURSE: **Destination Reading IV**  
UNIT 30: **It's a Fantasy World: Living in the Comics**

**Your  
Turn™**

## Comprehension Skill: Literary Elements (Theme)

Complete the following items to practice the comprehension skill for this unit.

**Learning  
Objective:**

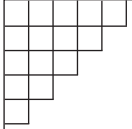
- Identify theme in a science fantasy text.

Raven inhaled deeply. She had come to the forest to hunt, but now she perceived humans approaching in the enclosing twilight. Evading them would be impossible at this point because she could hear them, even at this distance, conversing about the radio call and the forthcoming reinforcements. She metamorphosed silently and easily and ambulated toward the edge of the forest. She could hear Luca's voice among the others. Rachel felt disillusioned to know that Luca was among the vigilantes, since she once considered Luca a friend, someone she thought might stick by her side even if she knew the truth. After all, Rachel was a respectable citizen, a beloved teacher at the elementary school, a good person—and an Animal.

When Luca saw her, long before the others did, she disengaged from the group and ran toward Rachel so quickly she nearly collided with her. "Rachel! What are you doing here?"

"I overheard the call on the police radio that you were tracking one of them, and I was in the vicinity, so I came to assist in any way I can," Rachel said, her voice unwavering.

Genetically, Rachel belonged to the group humans had dubbed Animals, a species of shape shifters that could transform effortlessly between their animal and human forms.



Humans worried that Animals—who were stronger, faster, and often smarter than the humans—would seize power. When Animals were discovered and apprehended, they were imprisoned—most never to be seen again—but a few escapees were on the run from town to town, never resting. The rumor that had been circulating lately was that the authorities had begun marooning Animals on an island in the Caribbean.

“Rachel!” Luca whispered again, fiercely, her eyes flickering. Rachel saw the image of Luca’s animal form—a leopard—pass like a shadow over her face. “They know who you are!”

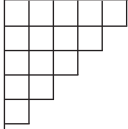
“Me?” Rachel thought, surprised. “What about you?”

As quickly as a flash of lightning, the two of them—Raven and Leopard—ran into the underbrush, converted into their animal forms, and escaped into the night.

Fill in the table on the next page to identify themes in the story “Raven.”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



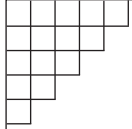
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<b>Character</b>	<b>Raven</b>	<b>Luca</b>
Problems		
Solution		
Theme		

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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Now write a short conclusion that describes what happens to Raven and Luca after they escape. Then list the themes of your conclusion below.

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Themes:

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