

Short Story of the Month

"The Gold Cadillac" by Mildred D. Taylor

Reading Literature

Skill: Theme + Text Evidence

A: Theme + Text Evidence

Read each piece of text evidence and decide if it supports the stated theme. If the evidence does support the stated theme, highlight or circle it. If it does not, draw an x over it. Then, at the bottom of each box, briefly explain your reasoning.



Theme

Family is more important than material possessions.

That evening, my father took my mother to dinner down at the corner café. They walked. Wilma and I stayed at the house, chasing fireflies in the backyard.

I listened, but I didn't understand. I didn't understand why they didn't want my father to drive that car south. It was his.

Heading back to Memphis," said my father. "Cousin Halton's there. We'll leave the Cadillac and get his car. Driving this car any farther south with you and the girls in the car, it's just not worth the risk.

"Daddy, where's our new Cadillac?" I demanded to know. So did Wilma. He smiled and put his hand on my head. "Sold it," he said as my mother came into the room.

"No, sugar. We've got more money towards our new house now, and we're all together. I figure that makes us about the richest folks in the world."

Still, though, I thought often of that Cadillac. We had the Cadillac only a little more than a month, but I wouldn't soon forget its splendor or how I'd felt riding around inside it.

B: Theme + Text Evidence

You should have chosen YES for four of the excerpts in Part A.

Now, highlight or underline the excerpt from Part A that you feel **most strongly** supports the theme.