



# Summer Reading—Finding Themes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In every story there's what happens (plot) and what that means (theme). For instance, in *The Wizard of Oz*, a lot happens: a tornado hits; Dorothy arrives in Munchkinland; she meets the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Lion; the Wicked Witch tries to stop Dorothy at every turn because she wants "those ruby slippers," and more! That's all part of the story's **plot**.

But then there's what the story is about, the story's overall meaning. This is the story's **theme**. For example, this is a story about friendship and sticking with each other. In addition, it's a story about appreciating what we have. Dorothy and her friends also display a lot of courage as they help each other. Stories can have more than one big idea.

Think about the big ideas in *Henry and the Kite Dragon*.

- What are they?
- Why do you think that the fifth grade teachers chose that title?
- What do we want you to be thinking about?

Jot down your notes about the themes and important ideas for this story so we can talk about this in September.

<p><i>Henry and the Kite Dragon,</i> by Bruce Edward Hall</p>