

# The Theme Game

Grades 9–12

## Teacher Guide

The Albright-Knox Art Gallery is a treasure trove of imagery, both representational and abstract. Each work of art is an opportunity for a student to create his or her personal interpretation.



### Important Notes to the Chaperones:

- Hand out pencils and worksheets to each student.
- Please do not allow your students to write by leaning the paper on Gallery walls. The floors are fine, though!
- You **must stay together** as a group.
- You **must not touch** the artwork. (*Hint: It will be easier for you to do this if you stay in front of each work, facing your students, while you discuss the work.*)
- Everyone **must stay an arm's length away from the artwork.**

### How to Play The Theme Game:

- Stop at any work of art.
- Have your students look at the list of themes on their sheet, choose the one they feel best fits this particular work, and write the title and artist.
- Ask each student to explain his or her choice.
- Now move to another work and try it again.
- To win—use all of the themes!

Remember, there are no wrong answers. Let them have fun and be creative! Students can use a theme for more than one work if they must—but encourage them to try to use all of the choices.

*(Hint: Abstract works work as well as those with recognizable imagery!)*

# The Theme Game

For each artwork you visit with your group, choose a theme from the chart below that—to you—symbolizes the work. Can you give a reason why you chose that work for that theme? To win, use all of the themes by the end of the game!  
**THERE ARE NO WRONG ANSWERS!**



Theme	Write the title and artist
The Hero	
The Scapegoat	
The Earth Mother	
The Outcast	
Paradise	
The Star-Crossed Lovers	
The Geometric	
The Villain	
The Journey	
The Child	
Identify your own theme:	

**Be prepared to explain your answers!**

*All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual. – Albert Einstein*