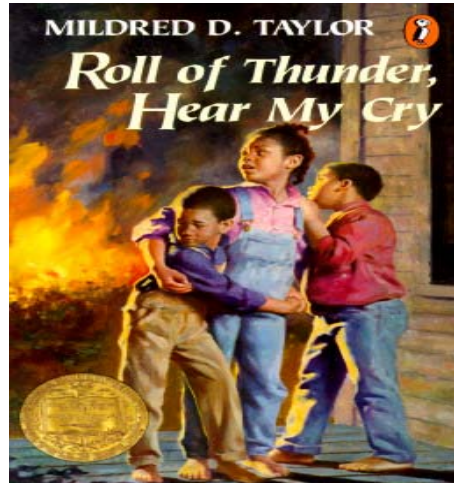


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## Project Overview

My project was created based on the idea of Theme Images from The Literature Circles Resource Center. In my project four themes, from the book Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor, will be discussed. As I read the book I found myself thinking about other themes as well as racism, which was one of the major themes in the book. I believe all the themes included in this story are equally important. Each theme is something we all encounter in our own lives as we grow and mature. Even though we all will share the same themes the encounters, the experiences we have from those occurrences will be greatly different.

## Overall Theme: The Fig Tree



During my group discussions on each chapter, one of my group members asked a question relating to the quote:

"You see that fig tree over yonder, Cassie? Them other trees all around... that oak and walnut, they're a lot bigger and they take up more room and give so much shade they almost overshadow that little ole fig. But that fig tree's got roots that run deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut. It keeps

blooming, bearing good fruit year after year, knowing all the time it'll never get as big as them other trees. Just keeps on growing and doing what it gotta do. It don't give up. It give up, it'll die.” - David Logan (Papa) p. 205-206 Chapter 9

As David told Cassie this, it made me think of how family, identity, racism, and growth play an important role in everyone’s life. Even though each of us will come upon each of these themes in our own lives, it was comparing the characters experiences to my own which made me think about the themes in the book in depth.

## Theme 1: Family



I chose family as the first theme because as I read the story it was apparent that the Logan family had a strong connection for one another. Not only did they work together on their own land, they worked together as a family to survive. Just like in most families, we rely on each other. Sometimes when are facing hard times or dealing with intense experiences we look first to our family members for support, care, empathy, and help. With strong roots (family) we are able to overcome many obstacles in life, no matter how difficult. I believe the author demonstrated this because of the relationship the Logan family had.

## Theme 2: Growth



The second theme I chose was growth. I chose a plant to represent growth because it had to put roots down, just like the fig tree. As the plant grows and roots become strong the plant can survive better. Similar to the fig tree, by having strong roots, the fig tree can grow to be very large and has a better chance of survival. The main character Cassie displayed the most growth throughout the story. It is an important theme again because her experiences would help to shape who she would become as a woman. Everyone has good and bad experiences that mold us into an adult.

### **Theme 3: Identity/Survival**



The third theme I chose to discuss was a combination of identity and survival. The reason I chose to combine these two themes was because the Logan family was trying to survive as well as identify themselves as a family. Fig trees have strong roots that spread deep underground. Having strong roots helps the fig tree survive, just as it would help the Logan family survive. The Logan family survival was based on owning their land. The Logan's saw the land as part of their survival because it was something that their family would own and be able to continue owning even after each generation passed on. We experience this even today in our own lives. Our families identify themselves in certain in their own ways. Some families may identify themselves by their land like the Logan's did; other families may identify themselves by their work or religion. Regardless of how we families identify themselves, the important thing is that we all do it regardless of how different we are.

Identifying and surviving as a family is important, but each individual must survive and gain their own identity. The Logan's had a way of identifying themselves as a family but each individual must find their own just as we do today. Not all the characters in the book had to obtain an identity because some of the characters already had theirs established. However, Cassie was one character who established an identity and grew throughout the story. Just as Cassie found her identity as the book progressed, we had to find our own identities as we grew up to.

### **Theme 4: Racism**



The last theme I chose to cover was racism. Racism was the theme the reader could easily determine. The fig tree is an example of racism because it is being overshadowed by much larger trees which, intentionally or unintentionally, keep the fig tree down. In society during this time, the white people continuously made attempts to suppress the rights of black people. Even though racism was going on the Logan's fought tooth and nail to grasp and hold on to whatever they could to ensure their survival. The land was a major part of the Logan family survival; it is what they fiercely held on to. They also had

strong family support system which helped them endure this tough time. Racism is not an easy experience for anyone. Today racism still occurs on occasion, and it is still a learning experience. Those of us who face this experience in some way or another know that it is a difficult thing to handle regardless if it is directed at us or to someone we know.

## Power Point Presentation

To view the power point presentation, click the link below. Credits and Resources used for this project are located at the end of the presentation.

[Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Power Point Presentation](#)

## Self-Evaluation

<b>Novice (1)</b>	<b>Apprentice (2)</b>	<b>Practitioner (3)</b>	<b>Expert (4)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Project does not convey meaning of the book.</b>	<b>Project partially conveys the meaning of the book.</b>	<b>Project adequately conveys the meaning of the book.</b>	<b>Project clearly conveys the meaning of the book.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>No organization evident.</b>	<b>Lacks organization.</b>	<b>Generally organized.</b>	<b>Well organized.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Lacks Appeal.</b>	<b>Some visual appeal.</b>	<b>Visually appealing to audience.</b>	<b>Visually creative and artistic.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Little attention to details.</b>	<b>Slight attention to details.</b>	<b>Strong attention to details.</b>	<b>Thorough attention to details.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Minimal response from audiences.</b>	<b>May or may not draw audience to book.</b>	<b>Somewhat draws audience to the book.</b>	<b>Convincingly draws audience to the book.</b>	<b>4</b>
			<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>15/16</b>

I scored myself 15 out of 16 points on my literature circle extension project because after revisiting everything I felt I was lacking a little bit in the overall meaning of the book. Although I did discuss racism as a theme, I did not go into great depth about events or situations that occurred throughout the book. In my project I focused on other themes as well, that may or may not have been intentionally included. In all other areas of the rubric I feel I succeeded showing an expertise for each of the criteria.

The thing I like best about my project is that it addresses more than just racism as the main theme or concept in the book. With the help of my group discussions I was able to relate many themes that occurred to the everyday experiences of any person. The book takes place in the early 1900's and was written in the 1970's. Times have changed a bit since then, and I think with the relationships and friendships many of us have today, it is possible we will experience all of these themes as we grow and mature.

If I could do anything differently I think it would be to beef up the power point with a lot more visuals that relate to the theme I was talking about, and I think that I would also concentrate more on racism while keeping the other themes like they are. I believe that would help my project convey the meaning of the book much better.