Identifying Theme

Directions: Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. **Write in complete sentences**.

1. When Katie Clean invited Messy Missy to her house to work on their biology project, she had no idea what a visit from Messy Missy entailed. First of all, it was raining and Messy Missy neither bothered to take her boots off nor thoroughly wiped them on the doormat. Then Messy Missy ate a bag of hot chips on Katie Clean's white bedspread without asking. Messy Missy is a sloppy eater too, so hot chip powder got all over the bedspread. Katie Clean tried to be polite and ignore Messy Missy's sloppy behavior. But then Messy Missy threw her chip wrapper on the floor. Offended, Katie Clean pretended that she was sick and asked Messy Missy to leave. The next day Katie Clean asked the teacher if she could work by herself. After Katie explained the situation, the teacher allowed Katie to work alone. Messy Missy almost finished the assignment alone, but she spilled grape soda all over it and quit.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

2. In his sophomore year of high school, basketball legend Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play. The coach cut Jordan from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. The next year, Jordan made the varsity squad. He averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

What is the theme of the story? _____

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? _____

Setting

Directions: Read each passage and look for clues that reveal the setting. Then explain your answer. Remember the setting is the time and place that a story happens.

Crack! The storm raged as the men scrambled around the deck, bracing equipment. The pirate captain wrestled with the wheel. The mighty ocean tossed them to and fro. He began yelling at the men over the noise of the storm, "Argh! We must bring down the sails men! You and you... bring them down!" He called out to a pirate wearing a stripped sweater and another one with a bandanna. The pirate with the bandanna began shimmying up the mast to the crow's-nest. The

pirate wearing the stripped sweater put his sword in his belt and began climbing up behind him.

1. Where is this story taking place? _____

2. When is this story taking place? _____

Mr. Holland walked up to the teller and handed her a paper slip. She punched a few figures into the computer and ran the slip through a machine. It printed some numbers on the back of the slip. She handed the slip back to him along with five $20 bills. Then she asked him, "Is there anything else that I can help you with today?" Mr. Holland grabbed the money off of the counter and tipped his hat to the woman, "Not today, thank you."

3. Where is this story taking place? _____

4. When is this story taking place? _____

Tone

Directions: Read the poem and then answer the following questions

Ellis Park
By Helen Hoyt

Little park that I pass through,
I carry off a piece of you
Every morning hurrying down
To my work-day in the town;
Carry you for country there
To make the city ways more fair.
I take your trees,
And your breeze,
Your greenness,
Your cleanness,
Some of your shade, some of your sky,
Some of your calm as I go by;
Your flowers to trim
The pavements grim;
Your space for room in the jostled street
And grass for carpet to my feet.

Your fountains take and sweet bird calls
To sing me from my office walls.
All that I can see
I carry off with me.
But you never miss my theft,
So much treasure you have left.
As I find you, fresh at morning,
So I find you, home returning --
Nothing lacking from your grace.
All your riches wait in place
For me to borrow
On the morrow.

Do you hear this praise of you,
Little park that I pass through?

1. What is this poem about? _____

_____

2. What is the speaker's tone? _____