

Independent Reading Thesis Statements

Read the following thesis statements. Then rate the thesis statement on a scale from 1-3, with 1 as the highest. Be prepared to explain what makes it a strong or a weak thesis statement.

1. Experience more than anything else helps shape our identity.
2. Gene's life is greatly influenced by Finny in many different ways.
3. Esther struggles with these changes.
4. By facing, rather than avoiding the difficult challenges before her, Lucille Odom reaches a new stage of maturity.
5. These situations lead Billie to change her point of view on life.
6. Adam changes when he learns the truth about his past.
7. Lucille's experiences cause her to grow from an innocent, insecure girl, to a mature young woman.
8. The Lisbon girls are all affected by Cecilia's death.
9. Reuven Malter, the son of an Orthodox Jewish scholar, and Danny Saunders, the brilliant son of a great Hasidic rabbi, meet for the first time in a baseball game between their two Jewish parochial schools.
10. Throughout the book, Mr. Malter encourages the intellectual curiosity of both his son and Danny Saunders.
11. The guilt and jealousy Gene feels throughout the book cause him to become a more accepting individual.
12. Esther's hospitalization teaches her to face her problems, understand herself, and trust others.