

## **Check your skill at thesis statements.**

### **Which is a good thesis statement?**

1. "A&P" is a funny story by renowned writer John Updike about a typical rebellious teenage boy.
2. This essay will discuss adolescence and rebellion as it relates to the main character of "A&P" by John Updike.
3. When the protagonist of "A&P" by John Updike takes a stand against authority, he embarks on the first step towards adulthood.

### **Which is a workable thesis statement?**

1. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros explores themes of personal and cultural identity through the eyes of a young Chicana woman.
2. This essay will analyze the central themes in the series of vignettes that make up the novel *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.
3. *The House on Mango Street* is a short but compelling novel by Chicana author Sandra Cisneros.

### **Which is a good thesis statement?**

1. This essay will examine the major themes in the Italian sonnet "What My Lips Have Kissed. . ." by Edna St. Vincent Millay.
2. "What My Lips Have Kissed . . ." by Edna St. Vincent Millay is a lyric poem that uses seasonal imagery to explore the theme of loss.
3. "What My Lips Have Kissed . . ." by Edna St. Vincent Millay is a beautiful sonnet that many people can relate to.

### **Which is a workable thesis statement?**

1. "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by William Butler Yeats is a lyric poem, which captures the feelings of a speaker at a moment in time.

2. The many references to sound enhance the sensation of peace in “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” by William Butler Yeats.

3. How does imagery function in “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” by William Butler Yeats?

**Write a 2-3-page essay in which you discuss the function of setting in John Updike’s short story “A&P.”**

1. “A&P” by John Updike is set in a small, suburban town outside Boston in the early 1960s.

2. Setting is an important element in almost all fiction, and especially in “A&P” by John Updike.

3. The setting of “A&P” by John Updike, in a small and sleepy American town in the 1960s, highlights the discontent of the protagonist.

**Answer this question to arrive at a thesis statement for the short story “Salvation” by Langston Hughes.**

What makes “Salvation” humorous despite the painful nature of the boy’s epiphany?