Theme:

Theme: the underlying idea of a story; illustrates some truth about life

Types: explicit – the author states/makes overt mention of the theme

 implicit – we infer the theme

Principles of stating theme:

 a) sentence form: subject + predicate (different from a theme “topic” = single word)

 b) generalization (avoid character names)

 c) not too broad

 d) the central, unifying concept of the story (major details support it)

 e) not a cliché

To determine theme consider the following:

 a) the title of the story

 b) trace the development of the main character (how has he/she changed? what has the character learned?)

 c) important symbols/images/motifs

 d) central observations made by the narrator, characters in story

Write a response to the question: How can “Identities” be considered a theme-based story?