Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

THEME with **URBAN LEGENDS**

**The Cat in the Bag**

A college girl was driving through the parking lot of a mall in Connecticut with

a friend when her car accidentally hit and killed a cat.

"We can't just leave it here," one of the girls said.

"I have a shovel and a big Macys shopping bag in the trunk," the girl driving the car said. "We can put the body in the bag and find some proper place to dispose of it."

She pulled the car into a nearby parking space. The girls scooped the dead cat into the Macys shopping bag and began walking around the outside of the mall looking for a dumpster.

"This wandering around is a waste of time," the driver said.

Let's just ask the security guard where we can find a dumpster." "Fine," her friend said. "But leave the bag somewhere. We don't want him to see that we're trying to get rid of a dead cat." They left the Macys bag by a door to the mall and approached the guard. While they were talking to him, a woman hurried up to the Macys bag, looked around quickly, then took the bag and started running across the parking lot. The girls saw her and began to laugh. "Let's follow her," the driver said. "I want to see the look on her face when she discovers what she's stolen." They trailed the woman across the parking lot and saw her duck behind a large SUV. A moment later they heard screaming. The two girls hurried over to the scene, followed by other shoppers who were in the parking lot. The woman was lying on the ground, out cold. One of the shoppers who had a cell phone called 911. As the paramedics rolled the woman into the ambulance, she regained consciousness and began to scream. "The bag! The bag!" The kind shopper who called for help picked up the Macys bag and slipped it inside the ambulance just before the door closed. "The poor dear," the shopper said to the two college girls. "I wonder what was in that bag."

**Identify the theme (recurring category of thought): \_**Greed and Karma**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Identify the author’s message about the theme (similar to a main idea or moral of the story):**

\_\_\_What goes around, comes around. (or You get what you give, or Bad behavior yields bad results.)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**Text evidence with explanation:**

\_\_”…a woman hurried up to the Macys bag… the took the bag…” supports the theme of greed because she wanted more than she had and took something that was not hers. “A moment later they heard screaming,” supports the theme of karma because she did something wrong by stealing and paid the price by receiving a dead cat instead of the expensive goods she thought she was going to get.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Vigilante Grandmother**

An 81-year-old grandmother in Sydney, Australia, was very upset when her

granddaughter's latest boyfriend hit the girl and gave her a black eye. "Stop seeing him,"

the grandmother said. "Anyone who does this to you is an animal. Get rid of him now."

The girl wouldn't listen, so the grandmother decided to speak to the boyfriend.

"If you ever touch my granddaughter again, I am going to make you very sorry," she said.

The boy smirked. "Yeah, Sure. No problem, Granny. By the way, you really scare me," he said. "Just remember what I said," the grandmother replied. Although the boyfriend no longer hit the girl, he took every opportunity to humiliate her in public. He shouted obscenities at her in restaurants and movie theaters, insulted her and belittled her in front of his friends. After several months of this, the girlfriend had had enough and broke up with the slob. Her grandmother was greatly relieved. Late one night a week after the break-up, the girl was walking home from a friend's house when she saw her ex-boyfriend and one of his friends leaning against a lamp post at the corner. She turned around and began walking back to her friend's house, but the two young men ran after her, caught her and dragged her into an alley where they raped the poor girl. The grandmother was heartbroken when she heard what had happened to her granddaughter. She hurried to the hospital to see the poor girl. "Have the police arrested them yet?" she asked. "No," the girl answered. "I told the police I didn't know who the men were and I couldn't give a description because it was too dark to see their faces." The grandmother was stunned. "Dear child, why did you say such a thing?" "They said they would kill me if I turned them in," the girl answered. Then she began to cry. The grandmother kissed her granddaughter and left the hospital. She stopped at her house to get something from her late husband's room, then she climbed back into her car and began driving around town. She drove to every place her granddaughter had ever mentioned going with her ex-boyfriend. At last she found him and his friend on a rotting wharf down by the harbor. The guys laughed when they saw an 81-year-old woman walking toward them carrying a shotgun. "I said you would be sorry if you ever hurt my granddaughter," the old woman said. "What are you gonna do, Granny," the boyfriend said. "You gonna kill us?" "No. I'm going to make sure you never hurt another girl again." Then the grandmother raised the shotgun and shot both boys in the groin.

**Identify the theme (recurring category of thought): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Identify the author’s message about the theme (similar to a main idea or moral of the story):**

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**Text evidence with explanation:**

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