*Example 1:* The theme of “Ruthless” by William de Mille is that one who takes extreme revenge will be punished. Judson Webb sought revenge on the thief that was drinking his whiskey. He was taking it to an extreme level by putting rat poisoning in the drink. The author wrote, “A small whiskey glass was pressed to Judson’s lips. Dazed and half-conscious he drank.” (Mille 3). This quote proves how when taking revenge to an extreme level, you will be punished because he ended up killing himself in a sense. He should never have gone to those lengths because it was wrong and it was shown when his ruthless ways were justified. Overall, the theme of “Ruthless” by William de Mille is that one who takes extreme revenge will be punished.

*Example 2:* The theme of ‘Ruthless’ by William de Mille, is people shouldn’t act out of revenge because it may come back to haunt them. The author wrote, “Whoever broke into my closet last winter stole my liquor will probably try it again once we are out of here,’ he went on, ‘only this time he’ll wish he hadn’t.’ She caught the breath at this cruel vindictiveness as one by one he dropped the tablets into the bottle and held it up to watch it dissolve.” (de Mille 1) Then he wrote, “It wasn’t much of a fall Mr. Webb. You ain’t cut none; just knocked out for a minute. Here, take this. It’ll pull you together.’ A small whiskey glass was pressed to Judson’s lips. Dazed and half-conscious he drank.” (de Mille, page 3) This shows that ‘People shouldn’t act out of revenge, because it may come back and haunt them.’ Is the theme because trying to kill somebody is a bad thing, so when he was poisoned instead, it was like a sign saying that he shouldn’t have done that. The most important part of the evidence is when Judson is poisoning the liquor because that’s what led to him dying, instead of the thief. When Judson poisons the alcohol, saying it will put some damage on the burglar, because he was poisoning him, that was an inference to what happened to him on the last page. Therefore, this is an example of why people shouldn’t act out of revenge because it may come back and haunt them.

*Example 3:* The theme of William de Mille’s “Ruthless” is people shouldn't take things too far in revenge or there can be awful consequences. The author wrote, “What are they?” she asked, “Something to make him sick?” … He seemed fascinated as he saw the Bourbon changing into a deadly drink. … ‘Here, take this. It’ll pull you together.’ A small whiskey glass was pressed to Judson’s lips. Dazed and half-conscious he drank.” (Mille 1-3). This shows that when Judson tried to get revenge on someone for petty theft (by killing them), which was taking things way too far ended up dying by the way he tried to kill the person, so he ended up with death, a awful consequence. If Judson Webb hadn’t poisoned the wine, and instead put up cameras to catch the killer or something less violent like putting a lock on the door, when he drank the wine from slipping on the acorn he wouldn’t have died to it and would've been fine. Consequently this evidence shows that the theme of this text is taking things too far in revenge can result in awful consequences. The theme of “Ruthless”, a man trying to kill someone for petty theft and ends up killing himself, is people shouldn't take things too far in revenge or there can be awful consequences.
*Example 4:* The theme of “Ruthless” by William de Mille is if people don’t consider all paths there may be consequences. For example on page 3 it says, “It’ll pull you together.” (Mille 3). A small whiskey glass was pressed to Judson’s lips. Dazed and half-conscious he drank. This goes with my theme because before that he got robbed so he put poison in his whiskey so if the robber drank it he would die. At the end he was forced to drink the poisoned whiskey. That was my theme of “Ruthless” by William de Mille.

*Example 5:* The theme of the passage “Ruthless” by William de Mille is, life can still take twists and turns in good or bad situations. The old man was very strict about anybody who touches his special belongings. So when someone does and he doesn’t know who did he plans something very dangerous. For example, the author wrote, “One by one he dropped the tablets into the bottle and held it up to watch them dissolve.” (paragraph 7) This shows that because of someone touching his stuff he is going to catch the thief and make him suffer. But then a twist happens and the old man fell, it so happens that the thief helped him up and from him falling he was confused so when the person gave him a drink of the whisky, he drank the pills. This shows that the theme for the passage “Ruthless” written by the author William De Mille is, life can still take twists and turns in good or bad situations.

*Example 6:* The theme of the story, “Ruthless” by William de Mille is that if people take egregious actions towards a tiny act of criminalism, then it will hurt everyone in the end. In the story the author wrote, “And how!!” He seemed fascinated as he saw the Bourbon changing into a deadly drink. “At least no one has found an antidote: once it’s down, it’s the end” (Mille 2) Judson wanted to kill the person who drank his alcohol, so he put rat poison inside of the drink. This was way beyond the boundaries of what’s right and was a very harsh thing to do. Instead, a reasonable action that Judson could have took was to take out his alcohol and moved in some place else, but since he decided to poison his drink he drank his own poison when we fell down. If he had thought about the situation more he could have avoided being poisoned and the situation altogether. Therefore, this is an example of how people shouldn’t be too harsh on a tiny act of crime. Overall, the theme of “Ruthless” by William de Mille is that people should not take egregious actions towards a tiny act of criminalism.
“Ruthless” and Evaluating RACER Responses

Example 1:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation

Example 2:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation

Example 3:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation
Example 4:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation

Example 5:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation

Example 6:

- Question is fully restated
- Answered with a theme that passes ALL requirements
- Evidence introduced and cited properly
- Has a Part 1 explanations that is at least two sentences
- Has a Part 2 explanation that begins with a transition word/phrase
- Restates the answer (including title and author) at the end - separate from Part 2 explanation