Title of Lesson
To Make a Long Story Short

Achievable
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. (11th and 12th Grade ELA Common Core)

Preparation
- Students will each need a computer with an internet connection (students can be partnered up if need be).
- Present the Canva Quick Guide to onboard your class quickly.
- Assign students to view the Canva lesson on “How to Design a Creative Quote for Social Media.”
- Select the piece of literature that will be used for analysis.
- Read teacher notes.

Suggested Lesson Flow
Part I: Read the Selection and Determine the Theme
- Give students the reading assignment, and ask them to look for evidence in the material that supports a particular theme. Some examples of common themes in literature can be found here or here.
- Have students meet in groups or pairs to discuss possible themes and text evidence to support those themes. Present to class and discuss.

Part II: Practice Making “6 Word Memoirs” for Famous Movie Themes
- Introduce students to 6 Word Memoirs by visiting the website and discussing some of the examples. (Values.com also has “Billboards” that can be used as examples, although not all of them are exactly 6 words.)
- Divide students into groups or pairs. Have each group or pair develop a 6 Word Theme to represent a famous movie that most of the class is likely to have seen. (For example, “Finding family is worth the journey,” could be Finding Nemo.) Students will read their summaries to the class and see if the class can guess the movie title.
Part III: Create a Facebook Post

● Students will use Canva to create a new Facebook Post design. They will then create a 6 Word quote that reflects the theme of the reading assignment. (You can use this design from Canva as an example.) They can use the Canva lesson cited in the “Preparation” section of this lesson plan to help them with the graphic design of the text.
● Once the design is created, students should describe and tag it, and then download the image. If the teacher desires, students can create a full “Fakebook” profile on Classtools.net, including the Canva quote as the cover image. The literary piece (book, short story, or poem) would be considered the “Company” for which the Fakebook account is being created, while the 6 Word Theme would be its company motto or mission statement. Supporting evidence can be added as “posts” and “friends” to the rest of the Fakebook page. Alternatively, the students can print out their Canva image, and write essays to support the choice of theme.

Graphic Design Notes (Use Tips for Great Design)
Before students start designing, run through the Tips for Great Design one-page reference guide. This includes five important tips for creating an effective design.

Part IV: Social Networking

● If the classroom, teacher, or school has a Twitter or Instagram account, a few exemplary designs can be shared, and the community can be challenged to guess the literary piece they represent.

HOMEWORK/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Students can make video compilations of their quotes. Or, instead of the entire class analyzing one particular piece of literature, several short stories with different themes could be assigned to groups of students. The teacher could post the Canva 6 Word Theme creations around the room, and each group could give text evidence as “clues” to their theme. Another option would be to assign the students to write 6 Word Memoirs for characters in the stories. (Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. 10th Grade ELA Common Core)