Backwards Spider Web Exercise
(To find scene-based theme of writing)

       Remember that the reader will not care about your theme unless they are engaged in your specific scene. For this, we will not allow you to go beyond more than a few scenes.

       You will start by listing all of the important (or simply interesting) tangible objects in the scene. Feel free to use specific creative description when doing this. (i.e.: dirty faucet, lonely dolls on a shelf)

       Once you have done this, look at the collection of details and see if any patterns of meaning arrive. This may be things such as multiple objects being broken, or multiple objects being spotless and clean. These connected meaning will allow you to point to the overall theme that is at the center of your writing.

       Once you have a few important meanings, think about what the overall theme that would encompass all of these meanings. The way that you do this is to consider a universal (or common) understanding about a general fear/love/hate/etc that these meanings are talking about. Another way to put it is that the middle theme should be what the reader is going to "get" overall from the writing.