

Theme in *The Story-Teller*

In the novel *The Story-Teller*, one major theme is that people can learn to forgive others for terrible acts if they show compassion. (claim) In the novel, the main character Sage is at first hesitant to forgive Josef Weber when she learns about his past. He tells her he was a Nazi and regrets the horrible acts of violence he committed against Jews during WWII. Since Sage is Jewish and her grandmother survived the Holocaust, Sage feels that Josef deserves no forgiveness. She even tells the FBI investigator that she cannot ever forgive him. (Evidence) However, after learning about his past and understanding that everyone has both good and evil in them, Sage learns to recognize that she can forgive him on some level because she feels compassion toward all people. Despite her grandmother's experiences, Sage realizes that Josef is perhaps not all evil and deserves the same compassion that others do. (Justification and explanation) If all people can learn to forgive others, perhaps our society can move forward with more progress rather than holding on to old grudges against others who are different. Of course, it's a personal decision whether or not to forgive – but perhaps it takes more courage to forgive than to hold on to hate. (Conclusion)