Determining Theme

Use the note taker below to keep ideas and details about possible themes of *Return to Sender*.

Theme	Discussion Day 1 (pp. 1–106) Evidence that develops the theme	Discussion Day 2 (pp. 1–263) Evidence that develops the theme
Working together	• Tyler's father is seriously injured while working on the farm (5) • The work is too much for the remaining family members (7) • Hiring migrant workers enables the Paquette family to keep the farm (13)	
Understanding others	• Tyler realizes that he has not spent much time with people who are different from him and how limited his experience has been (49) • Tyler notices that the new workers speak Spanish, which makes him curious but also uncertain (Ch. 3–4). • Tyler begins to observe rather than judge, noticing differences without fully understanding them yet.	

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Home and belonging	• The Paquette farm is described as more than land; it is deeply connected to the family's identity and history (6) • Tyler worries that losing the farm would mean losing his sense of home and devastate his dad • Mari's family is also connected to the farm; more than one family can belong to the same place	
Respect and fairness	• Tyler becomes aware that some people do the hardest work but receive little recognition • The workers' labor is necessary for the farm's survival, yet they are forced to hide (59) • "The cows can't wait for their milking till the politicians get the laws changed." (87)	

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