Thesis: 1 general sentence with a subject and an opinion that guides the whole essay. The thesis is the last sentence in your introductory paragraph.

Example: In her poem “Phenomenal Woman”, Maya Angelou uses refrain, rhyming, and personification to develop the theme that no matter how attractive a woman’s face or body is, it is the content and the confidence of a woman that makes her beautiful.

Example: Through a cynical and depressed tone, accompanied by various poetic devices, Paul Laurence Dunbar’s “Life’s Tragedy” develops the theme that when one does not take pleasure in his actions, he focuses on how far from perfect the attempt was.

Example: Maya Angelou’s poem “A Brave and Startling Truth” uses valuable refrain, exceptional allusions, and marvelous metaphors to create a compassionate and despairing tone that conveys the theme that peace will only be achieved when human beings accept both good and evil as necessary components to a peaceful and complete life.