Across the years he could recall
His father one way best of all.

In the stillest hour of night
The boy awakened to a light.

5 Half in dreams, he saw his sire
With his great hands full of fire.

The man had struck a match to see
If his son slept peacefully.

He held his palms each side the spark
His love had kindled in the dark.

10 His two hands were curved apart
In the semblance° of a heart.

He wore, it seemed to his small son,
A bare heart on his hidden one,

15 A heart that gave out such a glow
No son awake could bear to know.

It showed a look upon a face
Too tender for the day to trace.

One instant, it lit all about,
And then the secret heart went out.

20 But it shone long enough for one
To know that hands held up the sun.

° semblance: form.
Catch the Moon; The Secret Heart

**Universal themes**—broad statements or observations about life—occur again and again in literature. Each time a theme is explored, it takes on new life as new characters facing new situations wrestle with age-old concerns.

**Comparison Chart** Fill in the comparison chart below to compare the texts of “Catch the Moon” and “The Secret Heart.” Then, review your completed chart and identify the theme the two selections share. Write the shared theme below the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Character(s)/Speaker</th>
<th>“Catch the Moon”</th>
<th>“The Secret Heart”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict (what happens)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What the character/speaker learns or discovers</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme(s)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of theme:**

The statement of the theme shared by “Catch the Moon” and “The Secret Heart” is: ________________________________

<table>
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