



THEMES ^{IN} LITERATURE

Common Themes in Literature

A theme can be stated as one big idea, word, but it's more precise when we put it out as a statement or stated as a complete sentence. One way to target the theme is to find the big idea the author wants to address. The idea is identified as a one-word big idea or a complete statement.

Some common theme big ideas are listed below:

Growing Up	Discipline	Jealousy
Courage	Identity	Hope
Family/Relationship	Form	Loyalty
Friendship	Identity	Shame
Acceptance	Being Yourself	Death
Competition	Doing the Right Thing	Freedom
Science	Tradition	

Think about the piece you are reading and the ideas it might have to help you find the theme. For example, if the piece has something about learning, youth, success, or responsibility, one big idea may be 'Growing up.' If the piece has ideas relating to family, friends, or identity, one big idea may be 'Acceptance.'

Questions to Consider When Targeting a Theme Statement

- What questions does the piece of writing make you have?
- What answers does the piece present?
- What problems/issues does the main character try to deal with or solve?
- What is the main character learning as they deal with the conflict?
- What impression does the piece give you as a whole?
- Did any of the main characters' questions get answered?
- Did the main character(s) resolve anything?
- Are some of the smaller details how greater meaning?
- Do the main characters provide any answers?

To Summarize

- Read the piece.
- Think about the big ideas in the piece.
- Write up the theme statements that go with the big ideas.

FREEBIE!

THEMES

Notes on Themes

- Themes are often not stated in a story.
- Themes are often conveyed through characters' actions or thoughts, minor details and images in the story.
- Themes can be found by making observations (good guesses).
- Identifying themes with the subject of the story.
- Themes and stories can have more than one theme.

- We grateful for what you have.
- We grateful what you wish for.
- The grass isn't always greener on the other side.
- Give and take with the world.
- Things are often harder than they appear.
- Things come in all shapes and sizes.
- Two heads are better than one.
- Confidence your enemy can be your friend.
- Choices in life have consequences for you and others.
- Confidence the best things in life are free.
- Confidence the best things in life aren't free.
- The future holds the one worth living.
- Confidence isn't all.
- The world isn't perfect.
- There's work you need to do.
- Be careful.

- Don't judge a book by its cover.
- Don't be too quick to judge.
- Use every moment as though it could be your last.
- Approach every moment you've been given.
- We learn from our mistakes.
- Approach what you have.
- Take a walk in someone else's shoes.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Relationships take work.
- Confidence we don't realize how important something someone is until it's gone.
- We must accept some things that happen and learn to live with things.
- You don't have to be something in order to accept it.
- Great things are often hard to be treated.
- Be kind.
- Be happy.

