

# COMMON THEMES IN LITERATURE

THEME = recurring idea or insight found in the text.

Also known as the *hidden message*.

Love/tragedy	Who am I? <sup>-growing up</sup>	Fairness
Devotion - dedicated	Safety	good vs. evil
Revenge	Denial - not accepting	Dreams
Dedication	Acceptance	Journeys
War	Honesty - not lying	Environment - society/community
Desires - things we want	Rebellion - to rebel	Perseverance - not giving up
Decisions	Self-image	Conflict
Family relationships	Pressures	Transitions - growing up
Motivation	Sacrifice	Coming of age - growing up
Respect	Overcoming - <sup>not giving up</sup>	Heroes
Tolerance - how much	Health issues	Abuse
Prejudice <sup>can we deal/put up with?</sup>	Belief systems	Consequences
Fear <sup>-racism</sup>	Survival	Perception vs. Reality <sup>looks real</sup>
Appreciating Differences	Individuality	Courage - brave
Overcoming internal struggles	↳ how one person is special	Loyalty - being a good person
↳ moving on from personal problems		

\*\*The above list are topics for themes.

- Remember that a theme is a statement that says something *about* the topic.

What can we learn?

- For example, a theme for love could be something like:  
*Love can cause enemies to forget their differences.*