

General Theme Topics: possible theme statements generated from those topics/brief explanations.

Fiction as a means of personal discovery: The reader can discover more about him/herself through the story's characters.

The interconnectedness of all things: All things in the world are connected to one another; each person, or thing, impacts another.

Reality vs. Delusion: What someone or something appears to be is sometimes different than reality, or the truth.

The fall of man: Sometimes a character trait can lead to failure, even death.

The quest for immortality: What the next world holds for us. It would be great to live forever. It would be great to know what will happen in the next life.

Symbolic death and rebirth: Life includes both death and rebirth, and this can be represented with a symbol or symbols.

The Faust theme: A quest for forbidden knowledge. Sometimes a person wants knowledge that is forbidden. Sometimes this person will make a deal with the Devil for this information – allusion to Faust. This information gives the person more power. What is his/her responsibility with this information and power?

The individual's relationship with and obligation to society: What is a person's most important responsibility: to him/herself or to society?

The artist's relationship with and obligation to society: Do the artists have a relationship with and a responsibility to society in what or how they represent life through their art?

The individual's relationship with and obligation to the natural world: People have a relationship with and a responsibility to nature.

The individual's journey to understand him/herself: Sometimes people take a different kind of journey: they journey into themselves in order to better understand themselves. (e.g. Which is more important: passion or reason? Is it helpful or futile to get angry? Is it vain or not to be selfish?)

The individual's experience of alienation and despair: Some people do not have any relationship to other people and live alone or exist as an outsider. This is a very lonely experience.

The individual as hero: What does it mean to be a hero or an anti-hero? What type of quest or journey does the hero pursue? How does it fulfill the archetypal Heroic Pattern or Quest Cycle?

Types of love and the need for love: There are different types of love (family, friendship, boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife, etc.) and we all need love in our lives.

Survival: What does it mean to be a "survivor"?

Justice and injustice: What is "justice" and "injustice" and how are they decided?

Carpe Diem: Latin phrase for "Seize the Day." Take advantage of life (time, energy, talent, opportunity, etc.) and do something, now.

The past as determinant of the present: What we have done in the past will impact what happens in the present, and what we do in the present will influence our future.

The human condition: Being a human being is complicated. Things can be both good and bad. There is irony in the life of a human being.

Existentialism vs. Nihilism: Is the character self-actualizing – someone who takes responsibility for his/her actions and believes in him/herself – or someone who believes in nothing? To what extent is the character a representation of Existential traits and/or Nihilistic traits?

Dionysian ecstasy vs. Apollonian reason: Is the character someone who finds beauty in destruction or someone who finds beauty in order? How is beauty "created"? To what extent are both of these "sides" present in one character?