Theme Topics

One process that can be used to identify the theme in a story is to recognize the topic of the story’s theme. Once the topic has been identified, then determine what point about that topic is being made through the story. Remember that a topic is a broad, general concept that can usually be stated in one word. Sometimes a story’s message may relate to more than one topic. In this case one must determine how the topics are related in the story. The list below shows some common theme topics.

Abandonment
Alienation
Ambition
American Dream, The
Birth/Childhood
Coming of Age
Commercialism/Commerce
Community
Criticim
Cruelty
Death
Education
Ethics
Family
Fate
Freedom
Futility
Gender
Grief
Guilt
Heroism
Honesty
Hope
Identity
Illness
Individual and Society
Innocence and Experience
Isolation
Jealousy
Justice
Love
Memory
Nationalism
Nature
Oppression
Parenthood
Pride
Race
Regret
Rejection
Religion
Responsibility
Science and Technology
Social Class
Spirituality
Stages of Life
Success
Suffering
Survival
Tradition
Violence
Work