

Literary Terms #8 – Theme

Theme	<p>A theme is a universal truth, a concept, an overarching idea or a topic that the story is based upon.</p> <p>Examples: Truth, Honor, Respect, Love</p>
Recurring Theme	<p>One which will appear more than once in the story</p>
Universal	<p>One which appeals to all people in all forms of literature.</p>
Moral	<p>The lesson taught in the story. It usually occurs at the end of the story and would be stated as a sentence. The moral is the message the author wishes to convey to the reader and may do so directly or implied.</p> <p>Examples: Be happy with what you have. Slow and steady wins the race.</p>
Gothic	<p>A mood which is characterized by elements of fear, horror, death, and gloom.</p>
Motif	<p>A recurring element, object, or idea in a story which has a symbolic value and will enhance the theme.</p> <p>To use the same element over and over again will reinforce a theme. <i>Not every story will use a motif.</i></p> <p>Example: a significant number; a color; a sound</p>
Symbol	<p>Something used to represent something else.</p> <p>Example: a ring symbolizes eternity and love; the American flag symbolizes freedom.</p>