

Abstract Words for Thematic Ideas: High School Student Resource

Use the following thematic ideas to create a thematic statement that reveals universal meaning.

As you develop your thematic statement, consider these questions:

- What does the text say about _____?
- What is the life lesson being taught about _____?
- What are the author's ideas about _____?

As you read and discuss various texts, add other thematic ideas in the third column.

Extended and Corresponding Ideas

alienation	loneliness	
appearance vs. reality	beauty (inner/outer)	
betrayal	disloyalty	
coming of age	innocence/loss of	
courage	cowardice	
dreams	illusion	
education	learning	
escape	(physical/psychological)	
evil	good (battle between them)	
fate	free will	
forgiveness	repentance	
freedom	individuality (and loss of)	
grief	despair	
honor	heroism	
honesty	deception	
identity	(search for)	
journey	(psychological/physical)	
justice	equality	
love	obsession	
loyalty	duty	
nature	man's relationship with	
perseverance	hardship	
power	corruption	
prejudice	stereotypes	
pride	hubris	
rebellion	conformity	
relationships	family	
religion	faith	
revenge	retribution	
ritual	tradition	
social status	class structures	
success	failure	
temptation	sin	
time	life stages/cycles	
violence	war	
women	feminism	

