

10 common themes in literature

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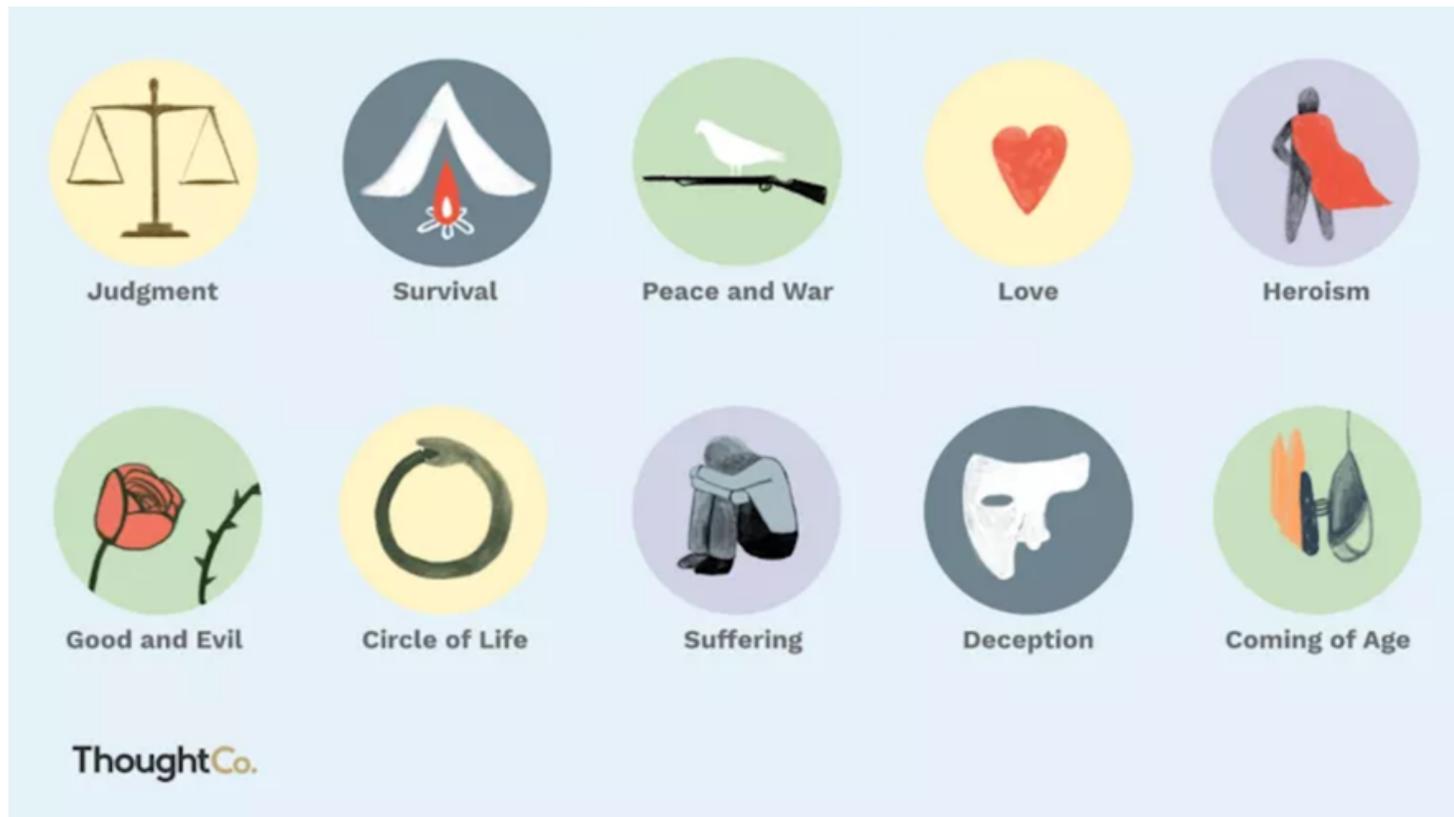


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The message of the story is the theme. Every book has a theme. Some books have more than one theme. These can be lessons that characters learn in a book.

How Can You Find A Theme In Books?

The writer of a book does not tell you the theme. You find themes in stories on your own. The first step is to choose a word you see in the book. Maybe the word is friendship. If you focus on that word, a theme may come forth in the story.

Many popular books have shared themes. Let's learn about the most common ones. This will help you find themes when you read.

Judgment

Many books are about judgment. Some characters may be judged for doing something wrong. A character may then be punished. These characters might not be guilty. They were judged too quickly. "To Kill A Mockingbird" is a good example of a book that explores judgment.

Survival

Sometimes characters are trying to stay alive. They may be in the wild: Jack London writes stories on this theme. These characters have to work hard and stay strong to survive.

Peace And War

Life during a war is hard for people. Characters in books about war sometimes learn what is most important in life. Some books look at war itself. Other books look at the time before, during and after a war. "Gone with the Wind" is a good example of this.

Heroism

A hero is someone who is brave. These characters never give up. They accept risks to reach their goals. "The Odyssey" explores the role of the hero.

Good And Evil

The fight between good and evil, or bad characters is common in books. Take the "Harry Potter" series of books as an example: the characters in those books struggle with good and evil.

The Circle Of Life

These stories are about life and death. They address how everyone is born and everyone dies.

Love

Love is a very common theme in books. You can find many examples of it. The theme of love is not just about two people liking each other. Sometimes, love connects with other themes.

Deception

Deception is a form of lying. Some books show how characters keep secrets from each other. Mystery novels are good examples of books that look at this theme.

Growing Up

Growing up is not easy. Often characters in books about growing up learn helpful lessons about life. The novel "The Outsiders" addresses this theme quite well.

Quiz

- 1 What information does the chart explain?
- (A) the steps to take to find a theme in a book
 - (B) some of the most common themes in books
 - (C) some themes that are hard to find in books
 - (D) the steps to take to write a theme in a book
- 2 What information will the reader find in the introduction [paragraph 1]?
- (A) the definition of theme
 - (B) the steps to finding the theme
 - (C) the themes that are often in books
 - (D) the definition of character

- 3 What does the author want the reader to learn?
- (A) that a book can only have one theme
 - (B) that every character in a book learns a lesson
 - (C) that the message of a story is its theme
 - (D) that the writer of a book tells the reader the theme

- 4 Read the paragraph from the section "Growing Up."

Growing up is not easy. Often characters in books about growing up learn helpful lessons about life. The novel "The Outsiders" addresses this theme quite well.

Based on the paragraph, what is the author's point of view about the book "The Outsiders"?

- (A) It has a good theme.
- (B) It is a good book that is difficult to read.
- (C) It has good characters.
- (D) It is a good example of a book about growing up.