

THE WRITER COMMUNITY'S  
INTRODUCTION TO

# *Discovering Themes*



# 1

## *Defining your Themes*

- Keep them dynamic
  - The best themes are dynamic and allow for a wide range of characters to evolve around them
- You can have multiple themes in a story
  - You can have a main theme and then spin-off themes that still relate to the central one
  - Need to make sure that the different themes and characters tie in at the end
- Different devices can be used to illustrate the theme(s) of a story
  - Plot
  - Symbols
  - Setting (beautiful good world vs ugly bad world)
  - Characters

# 1

## *Defining your Themes*

- How do the characters illustrate a theme?
  - Characters can set a theme by learning it for themselves: growth, some sort of lesson, these are themes perfectly suited to be demonstrated by the character's journey
- Themes are not as scary as they look
  - Tend to come to us after the story has already been written

# 2

## *Common Themes*

- 6 Most Common Themes in Literature
  - Good vs. evil
  - Love
  - Redemption
  - Courage and perseverance
  - Coming of age
  - Revenge

# 3

## *Theme Ideas*

- Capitalism – effect on the individual
- Coming of age
- Death – inevitable or tragedy
- Evils of racism
- Fate and free will
- Immortality
- Isolation
- Knowledge versus ignorance
- Motherhood
- Oppression of women
- Pride and downfall
- Progress – real or illusion
- Quest for discovery
- Quest for power
- Rebirth
- Reunion
- Role of men
- Role of Religion – virtue or hypocrisy

# 3

## *Theme Ideas*

- Self-awareness
- Self-preservation
- Social mobility
- Technology in society – good or bad
- Temptation and destruction
- Vanity as downfall
- Vulnerability of the meek
- War – glory, necessity, pain, tragedy
- Will to survive
- Wisdom of experience
- Working class struggles
- Youth and beauty

DID YOU FIND THIS USEFUL?

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