

So, What IS Theme?

A theme is a big idea ...

about what you think is at stake in the story ...

or an issue that you notice keeps coming up.

A theme is a hinge that connects a story to the world.

Themes in Literature

revenge	the big mystery	the noble sacrifice
the epic hero's journey	freedom	alienation
love and friendship	loneliness	control
loss of innocence / coming of age	courage	hope
the fall from grace	betrayal	resistance
truth	ambition	oppression of women
transformation	fear	the will to survive
the capriciousness of fate	acceptance	vulnerability
the big swindle	loyalty	self-discovery
redemption	perseverance	forgiveness
	prejudice	exploitation
	reconciliation	