

# THEME IDEA BANK

What is THEME? In any work of art, the theme is the underlying message that the writer would like to get across.

Theme is the message conveyed by a text that applies to multiple other texts. It cannot usually be described in a single word and it implies a conflict or an argument about the core idea and usually both. Some works can have multiple themes.

“Justice” is not a theme. A theme could be about justice—how it is hard to come by when people dehumanize each other, for example, or even “man’s inhumanity to man”

Below, you’ll find some “theme starters.” You’ll need to ask yourself ***What about it?*** -- that will give you a complete theme. See example below the “theme starter” list to show how to make a theme starter into a theme statement. \*\* This is just a short list; there are many theme starters!

- Beauty of simplicity
- Circle of life
- Coming of age
- Companionship as salvation
- Dangers of ignorance
- Death
- Evils of racism
- Facing reality
- Fate and free will
- Fear of failure
- Growing up – pain or pleasure
- Hazards of passing judgment
- Heartbreak of betrayal
- Heroism – real and perceived
- Illusion of power
- Loneliness as destructive force
- Loss
- Love and sacrifice
- Materialism as downfall
- Necessity of work
- Oppression of women
- Overcoming – fear, weakness, vice
- Power
- Pride and downfall
- Role of Religion – virtue or hypocrisy
- Self – inner and outer
- Self-reliance
- Technology in society – good or bad
- Temporary nature of physical beauty
- Vanity as downfall
- Will to survive
- Wisdom of experience

Example: Lost love

Ask yourself: ***What about it?***

Possible theme statements:

1. Losing love in one's life can lead to hopelessness.
2. Lost love, though difficult in the moment, could be the best thing to happen to a person.
3. A lost love can help one to learn about surviving tragedy and resilience.
4. The loss of love in a person's life brings new opportunities.
5. Loss of love changes a person fundamentally.
6. Lost love helps one to reevaluate and seek new possibilities.
7. Love that is lost can be a lesson to learn about empathy and/or compromise.

Write your own theme statement about *Finding Nemo*.