

Understanding Theme

1. **Theme is not explained with one word!** For example, love is a subject not a theme.
2. Themes are neither too specific nor too vague.

Simple format for expressing the theme of a poem/novel/movie:

- Below is a list of abstract nouns and topics designed to *help* articulate theme. It is not a conclusive list.

The _____ of _____



Abstract Concept		Topic
problems		(specify)culture
consequences		technology
beauty		(specify)government
pain		(specify) business
Effects		(specify) education
joys		Wealth/socio
nature		(specify) religion
folly		(specify) Social class
hypocrisy		(specify) age/age group
necessity		(specify) Gender
benefits		sexuality
role		(specify)race
value		(specify)Group affiliation
Possibilities		(specify)Physical Health issue
strength		Natural world/nature
weaknesses		Morals/values (or lack of)
violence		Aesthetics (form, beauty)
allure		(specify)emotion (see emotion list)
injustice		(specify)situation
ideals		(specify)Mental health issue
struggles		