**Universal Themes**

This is just a sampling of themes that can be applied to literature. Some can be paired to create a juxtaposition of ideas. Remember, when tailoring a theme to a piece of literature, you must take the work and turn it into a statement that shows the universal message about life that the author is trying to convey.

Abandonment

Acceptance Heroism

Accomplishment Honesty

Adventure Honor

Anxiety Hope

Appreciation Humility

Appreciation of Humor

Nature Identity

Attitude Imagination

Balance Individuality

Belonging

Brotherhood

Cause and Effect

Challenge

Change

Choices

Collaboration

Coming of Age

Commitment

Communication

Community

Culture

Compassion

Compromise

Concern

Conflict

Conflict Resolution

Conformity

Connections

Consequences

Consideration

Cooperation

Courage

Cycles

Denial

Determination

Devotion

Differences

Dignity

Discovery

Empathy

Enthusiasm

Environment

Escape

Excellence

Exploration

Facing Fear

Fairness

Faith

Fame

Family

Fear

Forgiveness

Freedom

Friendship

Goals

Gratitude

Influence

Ingenuity

Initiation

Innocence

Innovation

Inspiration

Integrity

Interdependence

Isolation

Justice

Kindness

Leadership

Loneliness

Loss

Love

Loyalty

Magnitude

Memory

Nature

New Experiences

Opportunity

Optimism

Order vs. Chaos

Origins

Parallelism

Patience

Patriotism

Patterns

Peace

Peer Pressure

Perseverance

Perspectives

Point of View

Possibilities

Power

Prejudice

Pride

Problem Solving

Reciprocity

Reflection

Relationships

Relativity

Resourcefulness

Respect

Generations

Responsibility

Self Awareness

Self Discipline

Self Esteem

Self Respect

Self Sacrifice

Sensitivity

Social Change

Structure

Success

Survival

Sympathy

Systems

Tolerance

Tradition

Tragedy

Transformation

Uncertainty

Virtue

Wisdom

Work

*Compiled by Keith Schoch at http://howtoteachanovel.blogspot.com*