

## Theme Cheat Sheet

Resources/Suggestions For Possible Themes

Resources: 6th, 7th, and 8th grade literature anthologies

beginnings with hope	pride in one's culture
beginnings with uncertainty	male cultural roles
living with hope	female cultural roles
making decisions	cultural morals and mores
turning points/making decisions	making discoveries
meeting challenges	societal morals and mores
facing problems	relationship with self
running away from problems	relationships with family
finding solutions	relationships with friends
encountering obstacles	relationships in the community
facing the unknown	balancing relationships with co-workers
accepting responsibility	balancing relationship with nature
nurturing your dreams	understanding freedom and slavery
realizing your dreams	identifying justice and injustice
setting goals	defining loyalty and betrayal
achieving your goals	maturing with accountability
understanding moral implications	defining "passing the buck"
expressing your ideals	growing into sacrifice
courage to express one's spirit	learning self-control
triumph of the human spirit	understanding forgiveness and reconciliation
courage to be yourself	expressing insight and inspiration
proving yourself	identifying guilt and moving on
developing self-confidence	rejecting different points of view
you're invading my "space"	accepting different points of view
moments of truth	"agreeing to disagree"
being yourself	making compromises
believing in perseverance	accepting the reality of the world
persevering against all odds	appreciating the world around us
building codes for life from memories	changing the world around us
importance of home	getting "lost" in the world
nurturing family	"finding yourself" in the world
understanding traditional family morals/mores	accepting the challenges of the world
expressing family ties	understanding what really matters
supporting human rights	living to the fullest
identifying social expectations	friendship across cultures
cultural heritage	friendship across generations

Below are questions to think about as you read. It is strongly recommended that you take notes on the books, or use sticky notes to mark passages you find significant, confusing, amusing, or interesting.

1. Character: Who are the characters? How complex are they? How do they interact with one another?
2. Setting: Where and when does the novel take place? How is the environment described? What atmosphere or mood is established? Are there any symbolic meanings to the setting?
3. Theme: What is the central idea or message that the author tries to convey in the book? What is the moral of the story?
4. Conflict: What major conflicts exist; Man vs. Man, Man vs. Nature, Man vs. Society, Man vs. Self?
5. Imagery & Figurative Language: What sensory (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch) detail does the novel convey? What types of poetic language do you see in the book? How does the author use metaphor, symbol, etc. to enhance the story?