

**Theme:** Main message of a text

**How is theme developed?**

-dialogue, plot, setting, details given (and not given), conflict, diction

**Theme examples:** love, hate, war, passion, overcoming hardship, poverty, knowledge, repression, friendship, courage, perseverance, compassion

**Theme statements:**

Universal statements connecting the text to reality. It connects the message of a text to any reader, at any given time. Think of a theme statement as a specific statement which binds together the text with the real-world

**What theme statements ARE NOT:**

- plot summaries
- character analyses/tied to characters or setting
- text-specific (specific details from the text itself)

**Theme statement examples:**

- Society often tries to destroy anyone who does not conform to its mores.
- Obsession on one strong emotion, such as love or hate, can lead one down a destructive path.
- Repression leads to a loss of one's identity.
- Everyone must face death in his or her own way.