

Theme ≠ Topic

Warning! Warning! Warning!

- Theme is always more than one word

"Friendship"

"Bravery"

"Adversity"

- If your theme sounds like a Hallmark card or a fortune cookie message, you need to dig deeper to find a unique, compelling theme.

Theme

Theme: An insight about human life that's revealed in a literary work.

- Theme is rarely directly stated by author
- Good lit. = lots of possible, provable themes
- Ask, "What's the author's message to me?"