

Theme is...

- The main idea of your story.
- Universal ideas about the human condition.
- A <u>viewpoint</u> about life and how people behave.
- The element that brings <u>meaning</u> and resonance to your story.

Express your theme as a DECLARATIVE SENTENCE

The Thematic Argument in Action

The HERO is on a journey to find out:

Is a person with love richer than a rich person money?

The VILLIAN absolutely believes: A person is richer with money than love.

Four Stages of Character Journey

- 1. Orphan
- 2. Wanderer
- 3. Warrior
- 4. Martyr

PLOT

- It's what happens in the story
- It asks the central question:
- It's presents the hero with the "Cs": challenges, conflicts, complications and choices
- It's how theme is unveiled
- It's how character is revealed

Act I

Act II

Act III

Girl meets girl Spaceship goes up

Cop catches criminal

Girl loses girl

Spaceship is crippled

Criminal escapes cop

Girl gets girl back

Spaceship comes home

Cop recaptures criminal

Three Act Structure

- Act I: Set Up: Who, What, When, Why?
 - Intros the normal world
 - Presents the "Inciting Incident"
 - Ends by posing central question

Three Act Structure

- Act II: Confrontation: Rising Stakes
 - Challenges
 - Conflicts
 - Complications
 - Choices

Three Act Structure

- Act III: Resolution: New Reality
- Final battle between Protagonist and Antagonist
- Protagonist learns the vital lesson
- Resolution of the central question
- New Normal