

## Common Themes in Literature

**Evil will be punished**—Plot pattern: a character commits a wicked act, which is followed by an unavoidable punishment.

**Right triumphs in the end**—Plot pattern: the deserving hero is plagued with problems and difficulties, but overcomes them in the end and gets much-deserved reward or happiness.

**Good deeds are rewarded**—Plot pattern: a kind act is done by the protagonist of the story, and is later rewarded with gifts or a return of the favor.

**Character is developed through struggle**—Plot pattern: the protagonist has a character flaw such as selfishness or temper or cowardice; circumstances cause the protagonist to suffer trials that cause him/her to grow into a better person, typically overcoming the flaw and being rewarded with gifts or favor.

**True worth is eventually revealed**—Plot pattern: the brave or otherwise virtuous protagonist is unappreciated, owing to some difficulty such as poverty, inferior social position, etc. Circumstances bring out the innate worthiness of the character so that others finally see the true worth in the person.

**Determination conquers all obstacles**—Plot pattern: the hero desires to solve a problem or accomplish some goal. He/she undertakes the task with such determination and effort that he/she finally succeeds.

**True devotion disregards all obstacles**—Plot pattern: a character develops such intense devotion to some object, person or cause that little else matters to the person. The result is happiness if the obstacles preventing such devotion are overcome, or tragedy, if these obstacles are not overcome.

**Love forgives all**—Plot pattern: lovers (or other persons in an affectionate relationship) are torn apart by the flaw of one of the two. However, love wins out in the end, when the person forgives the other person for his/her flaw and they are reunited.

**It is good to give up your happiness for others**—Plot pattern: a character makes a great sacrifice for someone else (or an ideal) and neither asks for nor receives any reward. Satisfaction is its own reward.

### Others:

- Man needs others in order to be happy and accomplish goals.
- In the struggle between man and nature, nature often wins.
- Growing up is not simple.
- Man continually seeks power over others.
- Time waits for no one.
- Success comes to those who are willing to work for it.
- Making decisions is not easy.
- The boy grows into a man.
- The girl grows into a woman.
- Every living creature has the drive to survive.
- A phony person always hurts someone.
- Ignorance is harmful.
- Apathy is harmful.
- There is some good in every person.
- Faith is a great foundation for life.
- The person who sacrifices friends for personal gain always loses.
- A man bent on revenge is a man to be pitied.
- War is a worthless waste of time.
- War is hell.
- Knowing yourself is a tremendous asset.
- No animal is so cruel as man.
- No animal can be so kind as man.
- There is no sacrifice too great for life, liberty, justice or equality.
- Foresight is better than hindsight.
- The course of love does not run smoothly.
- Cooperation leads to success.



