

THEME	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
HERO'S JOURNEY	Where someone rises from ordinary beginnings to become someone very special	
BALANCE OF GOOD AND EVIL	You don't know if the characters are good or bad, they may be bad for good reasons, or good with bad intentions	
GOOD VS. EVIL	The role of each character is clearly defined in a battle between good guys and bad guys	
EMOTIONAL JOURNEY / GROWTH	Where someone encounters emotional and moral challenges that help him grow as a person	
STRENGTH THROUGH COOPERATION	Where a variety of different people come together to cooperate in overcoming a common threat	
LOYALTY / BETRAYAL	Stories about relationships and the ways in which circumstances can challenge or change commitments	
REVENGE	Where someone uses his own means to seek justice against those that have caused him harm	
REDEMPTION	Where someone proves his innocence or changes his ways in order to redeem himself	
LOSS OF INNOCENCE	Where someone young is transformed into an adult through the challenges of the cruel world	
RELIGION / FAITH	Where someone perseveres due to their faith or religion	
TEACHES A CODE OF CONDUCT	Where someone succeeds due to hard work, respect, honor, kindness, compassion, etc.	
FAMILY VALUES	Where the story mirrors the complexity, challenges, and joys of family	
UNDERDOGS	Where the underdog overcomes insurmountable obstacles to succeed	
POLITICS	Stories about manipulation, corruption, and diplomacy	

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POWER OF PERSONAL CHOICE	Stories that showcase the consequences of someone's actions	
POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUTURE	Stories that showcase new technology and the possibility of things that might happen in the future	
CLASH OF CULTURES	Seemingly very different people from varying backgrounds, races, cultures, classes (and even worlds) come together and learn that they are not so different after all	
POWER OF LOVE	The most powerful emotional bond that puts those whom we adore, protect or cherish above ourselves	
ABUSE OF POWER	Where someone ambitious rises to power only to struggle with the morality of using that power	
SACRIFICE	Where someone gives up something of value, especially their own life, for the sake of saving something, someone, or the greater good	
SURVIVAL	Someone must do all that they can, perhaps even breaking their own moral code, in order to make it through the challenges they face	
PROTECT THE WEAK/INNOCENT	A character uses, resources, power, influence, or other skills in order to aide those who cannot help themselves	
FISH OUT OF WATER	The main character is placed in a world totally foreign to the world he or she is accustomed to	
FINDING ONESELF	Through a series of events, a person discovers and accepts his/her real character, ultimately becoming confident in him/herself	