

# PRO STORY BUILDERS



Hello and thank you for downloading the [Giant List of Themes to Use in Your Story!](#) Here, you will find a list of themes to use in your novels, poems, screenplays, and short stories.

The themes are divided into the following categories: Coming of Age, Good vs. Evil, Love vs. Hate, Courage (quest-type stories), Survival, Revenge, Power, Society, and Prejudice.

Each theme is just a few words, so you can interpret it however you like. Feel free to use any of these themes in your own writing— no need for permissions!

And if you know of any other writers who could use this resource, share the link to this PDF. It's free for anyone to access!

Have fun!

~Lauryn  
ProStoryBuilders.com

## Themes to Use in Your Story

### Coming of Age

*(Coming of Age stories can include Middle Grade and Young Adult books like the 'Ramona' series by Beverly Cleary, 'The Yearling' by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and 'Anne of Green Gables' by L. M. Montgomery. However, you might also see these themes in adult books, where the focus is on the character's personal growth.)*

- Vulnerability
- Identity
- Peer pressure
- Becoming an adult (blessing or curse)
- Rebellion
- Misplaced faith in others
- Uncertainty
- Ignorance
- Loneliness
- Innocence
- Protection (of a thing or an idea)

### Good vs Evil

*(This is a very popular theme choice, but it usually needs to be narrowed down to something more specific. Some books that use good and evil include the 'Harry Potter' series by J. K. Rowling, and 'The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis.)*

- Honor
- Honesty
- Rage
- Gluttony
- Addiction
- Kindness
- Hypocrisy
- Empowerment
- Selfishness
- Pessimism
- Arrogance
- Destruction

- Judgemental
- Self-destruction
- Vanity
- War

#### Love vs Hate

*(This is a very popular choice in romance novels, obviously. Also, love vs. hate tends to show up a lot in Middle Grade family stories. Some examples of books with love vs. hate include 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen, 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare, and 'My Sister's Keeper' by Jodi Picoult.)*

- Jealousy
- Forbidden love
- Unrequited love
- Marriage
- Family (blessing or curse)
- Death
- History (actions have consequences)
- Gay rights
- Happiness
- Sacrifice
- Betrayal
- Heartbreak
- Loyalty
- Secrecy
- Forgiveness (to a fault)

#### Courage

*(Courage is a theme you can find in most quest stories, including 'The Hobbit' by J. R. R. Tolkien, and 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson. Try combining these themes with a coming-of-age or survival story.)*

- Apathy
- Fear of failure
- Fear of change
- Fear of the unknown
- Perseverance
- Overcoming the odds
- Achievement
- Adventure (blessing or curse)

- The greater good

### Survival

*(Survival stories can include anything from thriller novels to a man vs. nature story— anything where the character’s goal is to stay alive. Some good examples of survival stories are ‘Hatchet’ by Gary Paulson, ‘Homecoming’ by Cynthia Voigt, and ‘White Fang’ by Jack London.)*

- Morals vs. survival
- Nature
- Self-reliance
- Self-governing
- Brokenness
- The circle of life
- Fear
- Isolation
- Brutality
- (See themes under Courage)

### Revenge

*(Many stories include some type of revenge, either as a subplot or the main storyline. Books that are driven by revenge include ‘The Count of Monte Cristo’ by Alexandre Dumas, ‘Gone Girl’ by Gillian Flynn, and ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ by Agatha Christie.)*

- Resentment
- Delusional (blowing things out of proportion)
- Forgiveness
- Impulsive
- Dependable (to a fault)
- Hotheaded temper (vs. calculated revenge)
- Obsession

### Power

*(Right behind good vs. evil, this might be the second most popular theme of all time. And for good reason— it’s always relevant! There are lots of different ways to display power, so don’t be afraid to use several themes from this list. Books about power include ‘The Lord of the Rings’ by J. R. R. Tolkien, ‘The Hunger Games’ by Suzanne Collins, and ‘Animal Farm’ by George Orwell.)*

- Abuse of power
- Power of silence
- Tradition
- Wealth
- Power of words
- Illusion of power
- Manipulation
- Safety
- Sex
- Role of religion in society
- Immortality

### Society

*(The theme of society is the backbone of all dystopian fiction. It also plays a huge part in crime stories, mysteries, contemporary novels, and any book that wants to look at the world as it is now. Some examples of books about society include 'The Giver' by Lois Lowry, 'Fahrenheit 451' by Ray Bradbury, and 'The Maze Runner' by James Dashner.)*

- Simplicity
- Capitalism
- Change (vs. tradition)
- Chaos
- Surveillance (vs. privacy)
- Freedom
- The purpose of government
- Propaganda
- Perceived heroism
- Individuality
- Free will
- Science
- Abortion
- Technology
- (See themes under Prejudice)

### Prejudice

*(Last, but certainly not least, we have prejudice. Books about prejudice can be some of the hardest to write, but also the most rewarding. These books tend to stand up for themselves and make a strong statement about social issues. Some*

*books that deal with prejudice include 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' by Harriet Beecher Stowe, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee, and 'Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind' by Suzanne Fisher Staples.)*

- Gender
- Poverty
- Law
- Corruption
- Wealth
- Social class
- Race
- Physical beauty
- Irrational fears
- Unable to trust others

Thanks for reading! I hope this list is helpful to you as you work on your story.

If you found this list helpful, I encourage you to share it with your fellow writers. It's free for download on my website and anyone can access it.

You can find more of my writing advice at my website, [ProStoryBuilders.com](http://ProStoryBuilders.com).

Now go forth and write!

