

Creating Thematic Statements

Follow the directions for each section, using the handouts indicated.

Section 1: Creating general thematic statements

Refer to your handout of thematic ideas, and choose a word from the list to complete the fill-in-the-blank statement.

Example: **Courage**

Courage allows people to attempt difficult tasks in their lives
(Thematic idea) (assertion about the thematic idea)
even when the possibility of failure is very high.
(qualifying clause: when, because, unless, even, so that, whether, if, etc.)

Thematic idea: _____

(Thematic idea)

(assertion about the thematic idea)

(qualifying clause: when, because, unless, even, so that, whether, if, etc.)

Section 2: Creating thematic statements based on allusions

Refer to the allusion chart from the warm-up activity and the handout of thematic ideas. Choose an allusion and write a thematic statement that illustrates an idea associated with that allusion.

Example:

Allusion: **the Garden of Eden** Thematic Idea: **Temptation**

The reference to **the Garden of Eden** suggests that **giving in to temptation may result in tragedy**
even if **the action seems to be small and insignificant.**

Allusion: _____

Thematic Idea: _____

The reference to _____
(allusion)

suggests that _____
(assertion about the thematic idea)

(qualifying clause)

Section 3: Creating thematic statements specific to a literary work

Think of a novel, play, or short story you know well. Think of the thematic ideas that are present in that piece of literature. Choose a thematic idea word (you may use the resource list) and complete the fill-in-the-blank statement. The assertion in this statement will be directly related to the ideas presented in the work of literature.

Example:

Work: *Cold Sassy Tree*

Thematic idea: *death*

In Cold Sassy Tree, Olive Ann Burns presents the idea that death is not only an ending but also a chance for a new beginning when those who are still alive take the opportunity to learn from it.

Work: _____ Thematic idea: _____

Model: In _____, _____ presents the
(Name of the literary work) (Name of the author)
 idea that _____
(thematic idea) (assertion about what the text teaches the reader about the thematic idea)

_____ (qualifying clause that makes a generalized reference to the work: when, because, unless, even, so that, whether, if, etc.)