

THEME

Theme- is a question being posed (must have 'yes' or 'no' answer)

Example: Is life worth living if you don't leave behind a legacy?

Examine theme through:

Plot- the story of the theme

Example: A great warrior has to chose fighting a war in which he most certainly will die, but will make a name for himself that will be remembered for centuries to come, or live a simple life with the woman he loves (*Troy*).

Examine plot through:

Character- the people through which the writer tells the plot through the theme (character must serve plot/ explore the question)

Example: Achilles is sure of what he wants in the beginning until he falls in love.

All characters can be categorized by which 'yes' or 'no' answer they would give

Major turning point- character's world (sense of self and place in the world) turns 180 degrees (ACT III) -character questions their previous answer to the thematic question

Example: Achilles' cousin dies, he blames himself for having chosen love over honor.

Resolution— theme manifest – have explored question as far as you want to go (or answered)

Example: Achilles dies bringing down the city of Troy and is remembered thousands of years later.

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