**Universal Themes Matrix**

A theme is a moral or lesson in the story. It describes an opinion about life, human nature or society. A universal theme is a theme that recurs throughout literature and across cultures. Chart a personal experience and an example from literature, history, film, science, current events or art that relate to each of the universal themes. Use the blank boxes to add your own reoccurring themes and chart related experiences.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Trust** | **Loneliness** | **Jealousy** | **Power/Authority** | **Reputation** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
| **Hardships** | **Love** | **Friendship** | **Hate** | **Good vs. Evil** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
| **Struggle** | **Society’s**  **Restrictions** | **Growing Up** | **Making Difficult**  **Decisions** | **Free Will vs. Fate** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
| **Reward for**  **Goodness** | **Heroes** | **Overcoming**  **An Obstacle** | **Learning from mistakes** | **Choices** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Loyalty** | **Good vs.**  **Poor Judgment** | **Crime does not pay** | **People vs. Nature** | **People vs. pressure from society** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
| **Understand God or higher divinity** | **Friendship depends on sacrifice** | **Importance of Family** | **Ying and Yang**  **(Just when you think life is easy, something bad happens to balance it out.)** | **Love is the worthiest of pursuits** |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
| **Death is a part of Life** | **Sacrifice brings reward** | **Human beings all have the same needs.** |  |  |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal | Personal |
| Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside | Outside |