TOP-DOWN THEMING | Identify an important topic in the story: Who or what is at the center of that topic? their emotional states anger, fear, grief, hope, love, loneliness, remorse, etc. coping with aging, coping with a their challenges in life disability, making a tough decision, struggling with an addiction, etc. a single individual the lust for gold, the desire for fame, the their purpose in life desire for vengeance, the quest for immortality, the thirst for knowledge, etc. seeing the error of one's ways, having introspection a preconception challenged, getting a taste of one's own medicine, etc. humanity a pair of individuals a familial relationship, a friendship, a romantic relationship, etc. a group of individuals family life, a workplace issue, a matter of social status, etc. a society's internal matter a gender issue, a socioeconomic issue, a law and order issue, a sociocultural issue, etc. an inter-societal matter diplomacy, war, a cross cultural issue, etc. society a universal societal matter a human rights issue, a social ethical issue, etc. a folkloral worldview hexes and curses, omens, lucky charms, witchcraft, etc. a religious worldview heresy, monasticism, sin, the afterlife, etc. a secular worldview chemicals, electricity, nuclear fusion, etc. reality a fringe worldview Atlantis, Bigfoot, alien abduction, ESP, flying saucer theory of UFOs, men in black conspiracy theory, etc. what if I were stranded on a desert island, what if I a fantastical experience had a second childhood, what if I underwent a physical metamorphosis, etc. a speculative society utopia/dystopia, biased sex-ratio society, multi-species society, subterranean civilization, etc. ...and beyond a speculative thing Al, Dyson sphere, extraterrestrials, invisibility cloak, etc.

These are upper-level themes. Look up particular themes at https://www.themeontology.org/theming.