

Theme

Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work. It may be stated directly in the text or just be indirectly in the text, meaning that the reader has to imply it.

Oftentimes, the author of a work has beliefs about life that he/she is trying to convey in the novel, short story, play, or poem, that he/she is writing. This belief is developed into theme, and this theme is usually **universal**, meaning that it can apply to people all over the world and often throughout **different generations**.

You may also hear theme being described as the message or moral of a story.

The text can have many themes, and these themes can be major or minor. Major themes are developed throughout most of the work, but minor themes are more developed in one part of the plot.

Direct theme—stated in the work

Give an example of a directly stated theme in *A Christmas Carol*.

Indirect theme—a message that was implied by the readers or audience because of characters, conflicts, and resolutions (or lack thereof). We will work on this now, so no need to give an example just yet...

JUST SO YOU HAVE THESE AGAIN...

Static Characters—characters that undergo very little, if any change, throughout the story.

Dynamic Characters—characters that undergo a huge transformation (for better or worse) throughout the story.

Concept/Subject	Theme	Detail(s) (page #)	Explanation(s)
<p>Unconditional Love</p>	<p>No matter how many times one wrongs his/her family, a family should always love, forgive, and welcome the strayed member with open arms and a forgiving heart.</p>	<p>“Don’t be angry, Uncle. Come! Dine with us tomorrow... I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot we be friends?” (5). “May you come in???! With such pleasure for me you may, Uncle!! What a treat!” (34).</p>	<p>Many people would stop inviting family members after being denied many times, but Scrooge’s nephew shows the true spirit of loving unconditionally by continuing to invite his uncle to Christmas. Scrooge’s nephew unconditionally loves Scrooge because he doesn’t ask Scrooge for an apology nor does he give Scrooge any attitude; the nephew excitedly and joyfully opens his door to his uncle who had always treated him unkindly.</p>
<p>Ignorance and Want</p>			

<p>Tangible vs. Intangible</p>			
<p>Transformation</p>			
<p>Generosity/Kindness</p>			