

Subtheme

Subtheme	Texts	Description	Example
Sentimentalism	2	A text which espouses and embodies sentimentalism	<i>The Man of Feeling</i>
Hubris	3	A character's arrogant behavior or action lead to a justified or expected fall from grace	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>
Picaresque	3	The tale of a lovable rogue figure, outside the law or opposed to common values	<i>Tristram Shandy</i>
Espionage	4	Spy fiction, or fiction about corporate or national espionage	<i>The Riddle of the Sands</i>
Dystopia	5	Literature about broken civilization, ruled by governments, corporations, and/or technology	<i>Dune</i>
Betrayal	5	A betrayal is central to the text; infidelity, political scandal, assassination, etc.	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
Mistaken Identity	6	A narrative whose events cannot reasonably unfold without mistaken identity (either accidental or intentional)	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>
Discovery	6	Primary plot motivator is the search for new locations, individuals, treasure, developments, etc.	<i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i>
Philosophy	7	Invents, argues/engages with, or denounces established philosophies or ethical positions (non-religious)	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i>
Seduction/Temptation	7	Plot themes that revolve around "forbidden fruit," as well as illicit love affairs and/or acts of seduction	<i>Portnoy's Complaint</i>
Civil Rights	8	A discussion of civil rights, specifically regarding race	<i>Go Down Moses</i>
Manners	10	A specific critique of manners, mores, and social norms	<i>The Misanthrope</i>
Family	10	A narrative which concerns problems and drama surrounding families, family members, and relationships	<i>The Wapshot Chronicle</i>
Finance	12	Plots which revolve around money in some manner; gaining, losing, spending, lacking, etc.	<i>The Jungle</i>
Rivalry, Honor, Glory	12	Texts about defending honor, gathering/capturing/building glory, or battling a rival	<i>The Song of Roland</i>
Women's Rights	13	A discussion of civil rights, specifically regarding sex	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
Inheritance	20	Plot structures which revolve around giving to the next generation - money, morals, traditions, etc.	<i>Kidnapped!</i>
Morality	21	Unstructured ethical conundrums, religious or otherwise, not necessarily tied to established philosophical ideas	<i>The Eumenides</i>
Politics	28	Engaged with political systems and/or rulers, including oppression, intrigue and/or revolution	<i>Romance of the Three Kingdoms</i>
Marriage	28	A text in which being married, getting married, getting divorced, or being widowed is central to the plot	<i>All's Well That Ends Well</i>
Theology	45	Discussions of philosophy and religious ritual, specifically tied to faith and worship practices, often critical	<i>The Temptation of St. Anthony</i>
Society	60	Critique, examination, or reflection upon social structures, individuality, ethics, and/or traditions	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Psychology	76	Concerned with thoughts, feelings, emotions, ideas, and perspectives within the mind of characters	<i>Lanark</i>