

Literary Themes for Students

Building critical-thinking skills and global perspectives in literature



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Literary Themes for Students brings together dozens of renowned works of literature that share a specific theme. Designed with curriculum-based standards in mind, this acclaimed resource helps students:

- Think critically by making connections between thematically-similar works of literature
- See globally by comparing and contrasting works from around the world

The series is organized around two-volume thematic sets, including *War and Peace*, *Race and Prejudice* and *The American Dream*. Each set begins with three essays that give an overview of the theme in American, British and world literature. Then, profiles of more than 35 major works explore how the theme has been treated in literature across time and culture. Each entry includes:

- A brief overview of the work with discussion on the circumstances of its publication
- A short author biography and portrait
- A plot summary
- A discussion of the major themes
- Historical and cultural context sections
- An overview of the work's critical reception
- Excerpted critical commentary on the thematic focus of the work

The sets are completed by a list of major sub-themes and works portraying them, suggestions for further reading, a list of adaptations in other media (fine art, dance, film and more) and an author/title index.

PRAISE FOR LITERARY THEMES FOR STUDENTS

- Booklist 20 Best Bets for Student Researchers
- “Media centers, public libraries, and community college collections will want to add this accessible, fresh, and timely approach to literary criticism.” — Booklist
- “The writing style is clear, free of academic jargon and condescension. This set is highly recommended for secondary school and college libraries supporting introductory literature classes. Public libraries should also consider it for general readers looking to enrich their appreciation of literary works.” — ARBA
- “There is an extensive and impressive list of contributors.” — Library Media Connection

HELP STUDENTS EXPLORE THEMES IN LITERATURE ACROSS TIME AND CULTURE

Literary Themes for Students takes an in-depth look at how commonly taught fiction, nonfiction, memoirs, drama and poetry selections — ranging from classics to contemporary works — deal with a specific theme. Examples of major works profiled in the three sets of *Literary Themes for Students* include *War and Peace*, *Race and Prejudice*, and *American Dream*.



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Gale is a member of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills which is the leading national advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The Partnership brings together the business community, education leaders and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure each child's success as a 21st century citizen and worker. The Partnership and Gale encourages schools, districts and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education and provides tools and resources that help facilitate and drive change.

WAR AND PEACE

- All Quiet on the Western Front (by Erich Maria Remarque)
- Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War (by Mark Bowden)
- The Charge of the Light Brigade (by Alfred Tennyson)
- The Diary of a Young Girl (by Anne Frank)
- Easter 1916 (by William Butler Yeats)
- Farewell to Manzanar (by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston)
- Henry V (by William Shakespeare)
- Hiroshima (by John Hersey)
- Iliad (by Homer)
- In the Time of Butterflies (by Julia Alvarez)
- The Red Badge of Courage (by Stephen Crane)
- Schindler's List (by Thomas Keneally)
- "The Sniper" (by Liam O'Flaherty)
- A Tale of Two Cities (by Charles Dickens)
- War and Peace (by Leo Tolstoy)

Subthemes: Anti-War Protest, Oppression and Genocide, Revolution and Revolt, Violence and Brutality, Women and War and more.

RACE AND PREJUDICE

- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (by Mark Twain)
- Angels in America (by Tony Kushner)
- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West (by Dee Brown)
- The Color Purple (by Alice Walker)
- Flowers for Algernon (by Daniel Keyes)
- Heart of Darkness (by Joseph Conrad)
- The Merchant of Venice (by William Shakespeare)
- Native Son (by Richard Wright)
- Nisei Daughter (by Monica Sone)
- A Raisin in the Sun (by Lorraine Hansberry)
- The Souls of Black Folk (by W. E. B. Du Bois)
- To Kill a Mockingbird (by Harper Lee)
- A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (by Mary Wollstonecraft)
- "What You Pawn I Will Redeem" (by Sherman Alexie)

Subthemes: Class, Gender, Genocide, Segregation, Sexual Orientation and more.

AMERICAN DREAM

- Absalom, Absalom! (by William Faulkner)
- Black Elk Speaks (by Black Elk)
- Cane (by Jean Toomer)
- Common Sense (by Thomas Paine)
- Death of a Salesman (by Arthur Miller)
- Declaration of Independence (by Thomas Jefferson)
- Finding My Voice (by Marie Lee)
- Grapes of Wrath (by John Steinbeck)
- Great Gatsby (by F. Scott Fitzgerald)
- House Made of Dawn (by N. Scott Momaday)
- Inauguration Speech (by John F. Kennedy)
- Little House on the Prairie (by Laura Ingalls Wilder)
- Main Street (by Sinclair Lewis)
- "Mending Wall" (by Robert Frost)
- Self-Reliance (by Ralph Waldo Emerson)
- "Song of Myself" (by Walt Whitman)

Subthemes: The African American Dream, The American Dream Abroad, The American Dream in the Nineteenth Century, The Hispanic American Dream, The Political American Dream and more.

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