**Themes List**

**Prejudice**

• Things are not always as they appear/ Don’t judge a book by its cover.

• Things are usually not as bad as you think they will be.

• Look for the golden lining.

• Beauty is only skin deep.

• Prejudice leads to: wrong conclusions, violence, false perceptions, a vicious cycle, oppression.

• Mercy triumphs over judgment.

• Beware of strangers.

• People from other cultures are really very much like us.

• Look before you leap.

• You should stand up and Fight Racial Discrimination

• Women are equal to men and should be treated the same.

• [Bullying](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullying) is dangerous and must be stopped

• Accepting Others’ Differences- respecting the individual differences, views, and beliefs of other people.

**Belief**

• Believe in yourself. To succeed, we must first believe that we can.

• Believe one who has proved it. Believe an expert.

• The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.

• One needs something to believe in, something for which one can have whole-hearted enthusiasm.

**Change**

• People are afraid of change but things always change.

• Things are usually not as bad as you think they will be.

• Knowledge can help us prepare for the future.

• Forewarned is forearmed.

• It is impossible to be certain about things.

**Good and Evil**

• Good triumphs over evil.

• Evil is punished and good is rewarded.

• Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

• Bullies can be overcome.

• Greed leads to negative outcomes: suffering, disaster, catastrophe, evil, callousness, arrogance.

• It is possible to survive against all odds.

• Jealousy leads to negative outcomes: guilt, resentment, loneliness, violence, madness.

• Good and evil coexist.

• God and spirituality - inner struggle of faith

• Good and evil - the coexistence of good and evil on earth

• No one is completely good, or complete evil. There are shades of gray.

• Crime Does Not Pay- honesty is honored and criminals will eventually be caught.

**Intentions**

• Actions speak louder than words.

• It is the thought, not the gift that counts.

• Don’t cry over spilled milk.

• It is difficult to say who does you the most harm: enemies with the worst intentions or friends with

the best.

**Love**

• Treat others as you want to be treated.

• Act kindly without seeking ultimate reasons. Practice random acts of kindness.

• Love is blind.

• Love triumphs over all: hate, selfishness, cruelty, tragedy, death

• Love one another.

• Love your neighbor.

• Non-human animals are beings with rights that deserve protection.

• Friends are a person’s most valuable possession.

• Love is a force for happiness and fulfillment.

• One should be willing to sacrifice for the person one loves.

• Love is the Worthiest of Pursuits- love conquers all

• Love - love sustains/fades with a challenge

**Politics**

• Follow the rules.

• Our system of government is better than other systems.

• Our system of government would be better if we would change.

• Rules are there to protect and help us.

• Personal freedoms, like those listed in the United States Bill of Rights, are good and necessary.

• Personal freedoms have gone too far and must be curtailed.

• Freedom cannot exist without personal responsibility.

• Freedom is worth fighting (or dying) for.

• Peace is worth fighting (or dying) for.

• Our system of government is worth fighting (or dying) for.

**Growing up**

• Growing up is a great time of life.

• Growing up is a challenge for everyone.

• It takes a village to raise a child.

• It takes a family to raise a child.

• Good communication between generations leads to: satisfaction, understanding, better relationships,

cooperation.

• Coming of age - boy becomes a man

• Growing up is hard

• When growing up there is a loss of Innocence

• Sense of self - finding strength from within

• Learning to be yourself is difficult/ Struggle for Self-Definition

• Part of growing up is learning about [Sexuality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sexuality)

**Ambition**

• Too much ambition leads negative results: self-destruction, envy, greed, neurosis, downfall.

• One needs ambition in order to succeed.

• Hard work can bring a great reward.

• We grow small trying to be great.

• Goals are dreams we convert to plans and take action to fulfill.

• Sacrifices Bring Reward: Sacrifices and hard work pay off in the end, despite the challenges along the way.

• Be Happy With What You Have- you shouldn’t take things for granted.

**Courage and Fear**

• Accepting a challenge leads to positive results.

• One can be courageous and cowardly at the same time.

• Courage is not the absence of fear, but acting even though you are afraid.

• Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

• Face your fears.

• I have not ceased being fearful, but I have ceased to let fear control me.

• Patriotism - inner conflicts stemming from patriotism

• Peace and war - war is tragic, peace is fleeting

• Duty - the ethics of killing for duty

• Man Struggles Against Nature: Man is always at battle with human nature, whether the drives described are sexual, material or against the aging process itself.

• Teamwork- when people work together, they achieve more.

• Don’t Be Afraid to Try New Things- you learned a lot because of their willingness to try new things.

**Knowledge**

• Knowledge is power.

• Ignorance is bliss.

• Ignorance is never better than knowledge.

• If you have knowledge, use it to help others.

• Too much learning is a dangerous thing.

• Be curious always! For knowledge will not acquire you: you must acquire it.

**Perseverance**

• Never give up.

• Try, try again.

• The race is not always to the swift, but to those who keep on running.

• To protect those who are not able to protect themselves is a duty which everyone owes to society.

• Our duty is to be useful, not according to our desires, but according to our powers.

**Happiness**

• Enjoy life while you can.

• Happiness is not having what you want. It is wanting what you have.

• Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

• Happiness depends upon ourselves.

• To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.

**Truth**

• Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.

• Nothing is easier than self-deceit.

• The truth which has made us free will in the end make us glad also.

• Falsehood is easy, truth so difficult.

• People Hide their True Identity/ Appearances are Deceptive.

• Mankind is always struggling to determine if societal pressure is best for living.

**Abuse**

• Drug Abuse is Dangerous

• [Alcohol or drug Abuse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_abuse) can ruin lives, families

• You need to speak up if you know someone is in trouble.

• You need to love yourself despite all of your imperfections.

**Death and Loss**

• Death - death as mystery,

• death as a new beginning,

• accepting that death is a part of life

• Birth - life after loss,

• Hopelessness - finding hope after tragedy

• [Suicide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide) is not the answer

• self-abuse is not healthy

• Suffering - suffering as a natural part of human experience,

• Isolating yourself is dangerous.

• Forgiveness and Letting Go of Anger

• Mankind tries to understand and make peace with God

**Family & Friends**

• Escape - escape from family pressures, escaping social constraints

• Family - destruction of family, Family is more than blood relations/ The Changing Idea of Family

• Journey - most journeys lead back to home

• You need to rely on your friends/family.

• Friendships are Invaluable

• Friendship is Dependent on Sacrifice: This is the idea that you can't have friends if you don't act like a friend.

• Human Beings All Have the Same Needs:  that rich or poor, educated or dumb, all human beings need love and other basic needs met.

• The Importance of Family: Sacrifices for family are honored and explored, as are the family bonds that survive adversity.

**More**

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