**Common Universal Themes**

* Beauty of simplicity
* Capitalism – effect on the individual
* Change of power – necessity
* Change versus tradition
* Chaos and order
* Character – destruction, building up
* Circle of life
* Coming of age
* Communication – verbal and nonverbal
* Companionship as salvation
* Convention and rebellion
* Dangers of ignorance
* Darkness and light
* Death – inevitable or [tragedy](http://literarydevices.net/tragedy/)
* Desire to escape
* Destruction of beauty
* Disillusionment and dreams
* Displacement
* Empowerment
* Emptiness of attaining false dream
* Everlasting [love](http://literarydevices.net/love/)
* Evils of racism
* Facing darkness
* Facing reality
* Fading beauty
* Faith versus doubt
* Family – blessing or curse
* Fate and free will
* Fear of failure
* Female roles
* Fulfillment
* Good versus bad
* Greed as downfall
* Growing up – pain or pleasure
* Hazards of passing judgment
* Heartbreak of betrayal
* Heroism – real and perceived
* Hierarchy in nature
* Identity crisis
* Illusion of power
* Immortality
* Individual versus society
* Inner versus outer strength
* Injustice
* Isolation
* Isolationism – hazards
* Knowledge versus ignorance
* Loneliness as destructive force
* Losing hope
* Loss of innocence
* Lost honor
* Lost love
* Love and sacrifice
* Man against nature
* Manipulation
* Materialism as downfall
* Motherhood
* Names – power and significance
* Nationalism – complications
* Nature as beauty
* Necessity of work
* Oppression of women
* Optimism – power or folly
* Overcoming – fear, weakness, vice
* Patriotism – positive side or complications
* Power and corruption
* Power of silence
* Power of tradition
* Power of wealth
* Power of words
* Pride and downfall
* Progress – real or illusion
* Quest for discovery
* Quest for power
* Rebirth
* Reunion
* Role of men
* Role of Religion – virtue or hypocrisy
* Role of women
* Self – inner and outer
* Self-awareness
* Self-preservation
* Self-reliance
* Social mobility
* Technology in society – good or bad
* Temporary nature of physical beauty
* Temptation and destruction
* Totalitarianism
* Vanity as downfall
* Vulnerability of the meek
* Vulnerability of the strong
* War – glory, necessity, pain, tragedy
* Will to survive
* Wisdom of experience
* Working class struggles
* Youth and beauty