

Theme in Literature

"What's the Big Idea?"

It was an ice cold evening in the city that never sleeps. Criminals stalked the streets, and everywhere you looked it was a war of good vs. evil. Will there be a hero to come save the city? Someone on a mission for justice? Stay tuned to find out what the theme is.

Yeah, we've got some knowledge you can get right here,
We're talking about a theme or a "big idea."
It's universal, like a moral or a lesson,
So here's a couple examples for anyone with questions.
Like, courage and revenge are both themes,
Here's a few more we'll present like memes.
In *Robin Hood* the theme is "good vs. bad,"
In *A Christmas Carol* it's about compassion you should have.
In *Romeo & Juliet* it's "love," but there can be
More than one theme, 'cause there's also "fate" and "family."
Many different stories have themes that they share,
Like revenge in *Moby Dick* and *Macbeth*. Now be careful.
Don't confuse theme with the main idea though,
So just in case, let me break it down for you real slow.
The main idea is what it's about mostly,
While the theme is more sweeping, so you've gotta read closely.

Every story has a theme,
A universal concept, if you know what I mean.
Theme in every story, every story has theme,
Just below the surface, running through it like a stream. (x2)

Now a writer won't come right out and say what the theme is,
But with the character and plot you don't need to be a genius.
Take Batman, aka Bruce Wayne the billionaire,
The moonlighting crime fighter who all of the villains fear.
But every once in a while,
A truly diabolical one comes into town.

And really puts Batman to the test,
The Joker, the Penguin, the Scarecrow, you can guess.
That — “What?” — every time without fail,
It's the good guy, Batman who prevails.
“So what's the theme?” Think about the plot and the characters,
Heroes, Villains — “I see the theme!” — yup, there it is.
“Good vs. evil” — uh-huh, but bust this,
Another theme is Batman's mission of justice.
And since it's always somebody in disguise,
Hidden Identity is another one — That's right!

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And here we are — this story has many themes as you can tell. Good vs. evil, revenge. There's always a theme to everything you read, everything you see. Make sure you dig deep. Your story has a theme too. Every story has a theme.