THEME

The theme in a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the author's underlying meaning or main idea that they are trying to convey. The theme may be the author's thoughts about a topic or view of human nature. The writer may use various literary techniques to emphasize the theme, such as: symbol, allusion, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, or irony.

**Symbol**

Definition: A symbol is literary device that contains several layers of meaning, often concealed at first sight, and is representative of several other aspects/ concepts/ traits than those that are visible in the literal translation alone. Symbol is using an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning.

Example: The phrase “a new dawn” does not talk only about the actual beginning of a new day but also signifies a new start, a fresh chance to begin and the end of a previous tiring time.

**Allusion**

Definition: An allusion is a figure of speech whereby the author refers to a subject matter such as a place, event, or literary work by way of a passing reference. It is up to the reader to make a connection to the subject being mentioned.

Example: “It’s no wonder everyone refers to Mary as another Mother Teresa in the making; she loves to help and care after people everywhere- from the streets to her own friends”.

* In the example the author uses the mention of Mother Teresa to indicate the sort of qualities that Mary has.
* Simile
* Metaphor
* Hyperbole
* Irony

Some simple examples of common themes from literature, TV, and film are:

- Things are not always as they appear to be

- Love is blind

- Believe in yourself

- People are afraid of change

- Don't judge a book by its cover