

Name: _____

Themes, Motifs and Symbols

theme – a central idea that is explored in a specific text. This idea can also be found in literature, philosophy, the world, etc.

Example #1: *The Matrix* (1999) is a science fiction movie that illustrates how scientific exploration and advancement may outpace humanity's ability to control their application into technology.

Example #2: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding captures the conflict between man's savage animalistic desires and his desire to organize humanity into a civil society.

Your Turn!

Example #3:

Example #4:

motif – recurring images/colors, structures, or devices in a text

Example #1: Fear is a motif in *Batman Begins* (2005). Bruce Wayne is afraid of bats and not avenging his parents' deaths, and Gotham City is afraid of criminals and crime.

Example #2: Birds are a motif in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The different birds in the novel suggest uniqueness, beauty and movement.

Your Turn!

Example #3:

Example #4:

- symbol – objects, characters figures or colors used to represent something else, usually an abstract concept

Example #1: Lightsabers in the *Star Wars* universe symbolize power, desire and manhood. The Jedi or Sith, who are central characters in the *Star Wars* universe, express their power, desires and manhood through their lightsabers.

Example #2: Napoleon's windmill in *Animal Farm* symbolizes politicians' control over the uneducated and or poor.

Your Turn!

Example #3:

Example #4: