

Siddhartha

Novel By: Hermann Hesse

→ Summary

• Siddhartha was born as a Brahmin and spent years studying the Vedas in the pursuit for the meaning of life. Then he joins the Samanas, who pursue the meaning of life through asceticism. He then was unfulfilled and followed Buddha's path. He left and went to the city but his friend Govinda stayed behind. He leads a materialistic life as a wealthy ~~his~~ business man but eventually gives up his wealth and finds enlightenment as a ferryman.

• He has a son with Kamala who he eventually has to let go as his son embarks on his own search for fulfillment.

→ Major Themes

- There is no set path to enlightenment because the true path is unique to individuals!
- The path to enlightenment is ultimately about balance and includes both detachment from and dependence on others.

"I have always thirsted for knowledge, I have always been full of questions"

→ Characters

- Siddhartha
- Govinda
- Vasudeva
- Gotama
- Kamala
- Kamaswami

→ Tone

- Curious
- Searching
- Serene
- Defeated

Jane Eyre

BY: CHARLOTTE BRONTË

North England
early 19th century

Genre: Bildungsroman (psychological & moral)
growth from youth to adulthood

Characters:

Jane Eyre - protagonist; independent, free thinking

Helen Burns - friend who teaches Jane to trust faith

Mrs. Reed & children - cruel to Jane; begin journey

Mr. Rochester - challenges Jane & teaches her love

Bertha Mason - Rochester's crazy wife

St. John - clergyman who wants to "cage" Jane

3x3

Innocent youth struggles

Unlikely couple meets

Youth becomes Adult

MEANING OF THE WORK AS A WHOLE:

- Anyone can discover their self-worth and achieve freedom and independence through self-love and acceptance.
- Love can appear in many ways

~ FRANKENSTIEN ~

BY MARY SHELLY (1818) (SCIENCE FICTION)

THEMES

- death
- love
- human nature
- light / dark
- good / evil
- acceptance

SYMBOLS

- light > intelligence, life
- fire
- monster → humanity
- Elizabeth → compassion, love

3 x 3

Plot

man makes monster
 monster wants acceptance
 monster kills man

Theme

humanity plays God
 nature conquers nurture
 nature kills humanity

CHARACTERS

- Victor → protagonist
 · doomed, ashamed
- Monster → antagonist
 · abandoned, sensitive
- Elizabeth → V's Victor
 · sister, lover
- Walton → listens to story
 · ambitious

MEANING

- * Life is meaningful in any form and should be respected simply because it exists
- * Nature and Nurture can cancel each other out

if you hear that heart snap it means ur alone

HAMLET

By: William Shakespeare

Characters:

- Hamlet - PRINCE
- Ophelia - NOBLEWOMAN
- Claudius - KING
- The Ghost - FORMER KING
- Gertrude - QUEEN
- Fortinbras - NEW KING
- Polonius - COUNSELLOR
- Laertes - NOBLEMAN

Meaning of a work as a whole:

Revenge can lead to
UNWANTED consequences.

Significance of opening scene:

First see the ghost who will haunt the characters throughout the play.

Significance of closing scene:

Hamlet avenges his father's death, however the play still ends in tragedy with multiple deaths.

Genre: Tragedy (everyone dies)

Watchmen

Author: Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons

Plot: Rorschach investigates death of comedian, this unveils a complicated plot to destroy New York. Turns out, Adrian Veidt planned to unleash an "alien" on N.Y.

Setting's: 1980's New York, 1940's New York, Vietnam War (flashbacks), Mars, and Antarctica

Symbols: Smiley Pin face, Doomsday clock, Rorschach's mask, Red, Hydrogen atomic symbol

Characters:

Rorschach's: Represents a rigid view of morality.

Dan Dreiberg: Represents a more willing way to accept ambiguous morality.

Dr. Manhattan: Godlike; too powerful and emotionless.

Adrian Veidt: Seemingly good man; wants to represent peace but ultimately becomes a villain.

Laurie Juspeczyk: Hopeful for humanity; brings empathy to the story.

Meaning Of The Work As a Whole:

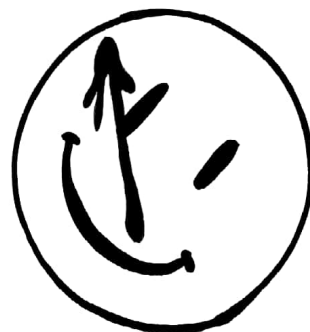
Watchmen presents two meaningful messages: One being that good intentions do not justify violent means, while the other states that a rigid, black and white view on morality blinds people to the world.

3 x 3

Peace Causes Destruction

Violence Fights Violence

Light Expresses Dark



~ The Road ~

by, Cormac McCarthy
~2006~

Plot:

A man and his son wander through a Post-apocalyptic U.S.A trying to survive and reach the coast.

Genre:

Dystopian / Post-Apocalyptic Fiction

Symbols:

Boy → hope, love, compassion

Road → life's journey / life in general

Snakes → evil, inner demons

3x3:

1. world gets destroyed
2. family moves South
3. boy finds hope

Meaning of the work as a whole:

Through life's obstacles never lose hope. :)

Toni Morrison's...

Beloved

Genre: Magical Realism

Setting:

124 Bluestone Road,
where the family lives,
Sweet home plantation,
Ohio.

Characters: Sethe, Denver,
Baby Suggs, Paul D,
Beloved

1987



Symbols:

- colors
- animals - slaves being treated as animals
- trees - Sethe's whip marks on her back
- water

3x3:

Attention	Hinders	Love
Guilt	Creates	Pain
Beloved	Charms	Family

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

A PLAY BY ARTHUR MILLER

Summary:

A struggling salesman who's failing to make ends meet begins taking stress out on himself and his family. At the end of the play he collects life insurance money by committing suicide.

Symbols:

Car - buying things you do not want

Flute - dream state

Characters:

Willy - protagonist

Linda - depressed mother

Happy - Willy's son

Biff - Willy's fave son

Ben - Willy's older bro

Bernard - intellectual kid

3x3

Struggling man works

pressures affect man

Man ends life

Meaning of work as a whole:

A life pursuing the same failure is not a life worth living.

WAITING FOR GODOT

Characters:

Vladimir — one of the main guys,
responsible and mature.

Estragon — other main, weak
and helpless

Pozzo — blind as heck

Lucky — Pozzo's slave

Godot — thought to refer to
God, everyone is
waiting for him

Genre: Tragicomedy (play)

Setting: Intentionally ambiguous

Themes: The futility of man's
existence when salvation is
expected from an external entity,
and the self is denied introspection.

Symbols:

Duality — characters are always
presented in pairs of two

The Tree — only real indication of
a setting

by Samuel Beckett

Summary:

Vladimir and Estragon meet
near a tree and realize they are
both waiting for Godot. While
waiting, they meet Pozzo who is on
the way to sell his slave Lucky. Then
they all wait together. Eventually,
Godot does not show up and they
all leave.

The Stranger

Albert Camus

→ Summary

Mersault's mother dies, so he goes to bury her. He does not show much emotion over her death. Upon his return home he embarks on a relationship with Marie. He also becomes friends with Raymond and becomes involved in Raymond's situation with his mistress. Raymond beats his mistress and becomes a target of her brothers. Later, Mersault and Marie go to the beach house with Raymond. They are confronted by the mistress's brothers and Raymond is injured. Mersault goes out later and eventually kills the man. He is arrested and eventually is convicted, mostly due to the jury's judgment that he is emotionless. He comes to find victory in his execution as many people will watch him die.

→ Characters

- Mersault
- Raymond Sintes
- Marie Cardona
- Salamo
- Masson

→ Major Themes

- Humans consider opinion and feelings more than fact.
- Religion is one form of many ways to live a life but it is not the only way.

→ Tone

- detached
- observant
- indifferent

"I opened myself to the gentle indifference of the world."

To Kill a Mockingbird

By: Harper Lee
DOP: July 11, 1960
Genre: Realistic fiction

Characters:

Auntie = Decision maker for kids

Jem = Idea of bravery

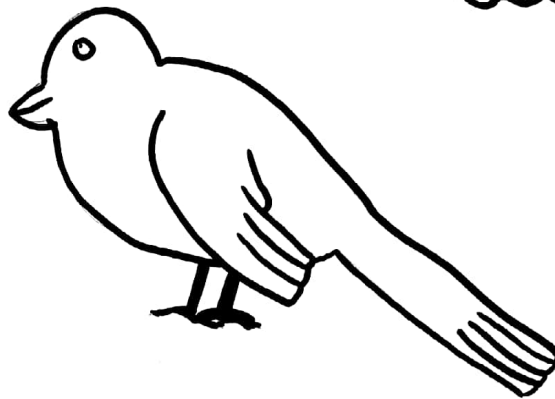
Scout = Protagonist

Miss Maudie = Shows kids sides of people they fail to see

Boo Radley = Represents innocence

Symbols:

1. Mockingbird
2. Good and Evil
3. Boo Radley



Meaning of the work:

You can't prosecute a man without having any proof.

Summary:

Throughout the novel, the reader sees Scout's views on certain subject matters.

