

ISU SUGGESTED THEMES

1. Family – experiences past and present can explain a person's actions and attitudes
2. Religion - its stories and images can play a significant role in literature
3. Search for self
4. First love and the healing power of love
5. Parent-child relationships
6. Voice of the narrator has a profound effect on the impact of some literature
7. Heroism can be destructive
8. Insanity / madness
9. Growing up is hard to do / coming of age
10. Reality is often illusion and vice versa
11. Imagery and symbolism are powerful
12. Human beings are beautiful, not in spite of, but because of, their foibles
13. Old age
14. Loss of innocence is inevitable
15. The journey / quest motif
16. Intergenerational conflict
17. Immigrant experience
18. Structure, imager, and themes in poetry
19. A defence / condemnation of pulp literature when compared to a classic romance novel
20. Why read detective fiction?
21. Those who gain power / power corrupts
22. Ugliness and horror and fascinating and can emphasize the beautiful
23. To succeed, comic literature must have scapegoat figures
24. War
25. Technology
26. Pursuit of dreams
27. Good and evil
28. Germ warfare
29. Future
30. Espionage
31. Dystopia / utopia
32. Sexuality
33. Eating disorders
34. Injustice and cruelty
35. Adventure
36. Alienation
37. Allegory
38. Apartheid
39. Africa
40. Courage
41. Crime and criminals
42. Nuclear war
43. Handicapped
44. Political corruption
45. Psychological thriller
46. Race relations
47. Banned books
48. Animal kingdom
49. Gothic
50. Romance
51. Southern writers
52. Satire
53. Indian writers
54. Native peoples
55. Magical realism
56. Holocaust
57. Arthurian legend
58. Duty
59. Art
60. Setting is character
61. Pioneering
62. Women in society
63. Care and compassion
64. The Canadian experience
65. The insanity of the world
66. Influences of the past
67. Violence in society
68. False illusions
69. Vampire stories
70. Search for female identity
71. Futility of war
72. Friendship / power of friendship
73. Death
74. Historical fiction
75. World issues
76. American dream / futility