

OAC Independent Study Thematic Focus Statements

Many readings/ interpretations of literary works begin with statements such as those listed below. These ideas are intended only to get you started, and they are not adequate as written. Each statement needs to be developed to an insightful reading of your novel/ movie combination. See the OAC Exemplar Booklet for advice on developing theme statements. Do not feel that you must apply one of these issues to your study.

- ◇ "the unexamined life is not worth living": an individual's search for self-knowledge
- ◇ language as liberator/ prison guard
- ◇ learning to be a girl/boy: gender role construction
- ◇ the making and/or breaking of a hero
- ◇ relationships among generations: how are youth / seniors/ babies perceived and valued or neglected
- ◇ privilege, discrimination, or persecution based on age, class, gender, race, ethnicity
- ◇ creation of personal or cultural symbols and their use/ misuse
- ◇ my "real-life" is not the same as yours: experience, perception, stereotypes, and action
- ◇ the role of the rebel figure in society
- ◇ taming chaos: imposing order on individuals/ communities/ nations
- ◇ social justice: to what extent is society responsible for the wellbeing of its individual members?
- ◇ individual and collective: what are an individual's obligations and responsibilities within a group (extended family, cultural community, nation)
- ◇ the destructive or constructive effects of cataclysmic events such as war, epidemics, etc.
- ◇ the winner writes the story: recording/making personal, national, and global histories