

THEMATIC APPROACH

A **THEME** IS A SUBJECT, AN IDEA, THAT IS DEVELOPED IN A WORK. FOR EXAMPLE, THE THEME OF TIME, LOVE, DEATH, WAR AND SO ON.



WHAT IS THEMATIC ANALYSIS?

Thematic analysis involves examining the recurring themes or central ideas presented in a cultural work. The aim of thematic analysis is to explore the way in which themes are developed, and thus reveal the main messages conveyed by the work. Among other things, this provides an understanding of the meaning of the work, while highlighting the elements that help to orient the viewer's or reader's gaze. In addition, the thematic approach enables us to understand that the work is a cultural product of a particular society at a specific moment in its history, and that it is a representation of the world, shaped by the point of view of a creator.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE CAN STUDY :

- the treatment of a theme (evolution, interconnections, social resonance, etc.)
- the evolution of a theme over the course of a creator's career;
- the evolution of the treatment of a theme according to periods or cultural currents;
- relationships (opposition, convergence, hierarchy, etc.) between themes in a creator's work.

GUIDING QUESTIONS IN BULK*

- What is the title of the work?
- How does the title related to the work?
- Does the title summarize the or does it present a dramatic springboard?
- Does the title refer to the main character? Name? Occupation?

HERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU BUILD YOUR OWN THEMATIC ANALYSIS GRID. YOU WILL NEED TO TARGET OR FORMULATE THE QUESTIONS THAT BEST APPLY TO THE ANALYSIS OF THE WORK YOU HAVE CHOSEN, AS WELL AS TO THE TARGETED MEDIUM (FILM, LITERATURE, VISUAL ARTS, THEATER).

- Does the title situate the work in time or place?
- Is the title evocative? Enigmatic?
- Does the title guide our perception of the work?
- How are the work's main themes deployed? Through aesthetic choices? Dialogue? Through the sets? Etc.
- Which characters best represent the work's main themes? How do they represent them?
- Does the work under study feature a particular treatment of space (locations, links between setting and themes, impressions suggested, etc.)?
- How does the work represent the world? Watered-down? Dark? Inspiring? Provocative? Etc.
- Does the work present cultural references (imitation, quotation, rewriting, remake, etc.)?

* Always refer to your teacher's instructions before building your analysis grid

RÉFÉRENCES

Bouchard, G., Caron, A. et Morency, N. (2018). *Les règles de l'art*. Éditions JFD.
Lever, Y. (1992). *L'analyse filmique*. Boréal.