**Common Themes in Literature**

***from a 6th grade perspective***

**Family:**

* Differences don’t separate you from being part of a family.
* No matter your differences, family is the most important thing.
* Family is forever; it spans all places and times.
* In the end, family will always have your back.

**Love and Friendship:**

* Sometimes it’s better to set aside grudges and help someone out.
* Take opportunities to make friends.
* Treat others with the same kindness and respect that you want.
* Being happy is as simple as being kind.
* You don’t have to have things in common to be friends.
* Give someone a chance, it might pay off in the end.
* Working together is always better than working alone.
* Friendship involves sacrifice.
* Love is a powerful force.

**Growing Up:**

* Keep an open mind when someone is giving advice.
* It’s good to have a back-up plan because things won’t always go your way.
* Education is as important as dreams.
* Always be prepared.
* Always be yourself.
* Don’t believe everything that you hear.
* To accomplish something, you have to work at it.
* Knowledge can help you prepare for the future.
* Growing up is a challenge for everyone.
* Believe in yourself and stand up for yourself.

**Honesty:**

* Share your true feelings, don’t hide them.
* It’s always best to tell the truth.

**Goodness vs Evil:**

* Greed leads to negative consequences: suffering, disaster, arrogance
* Be respectful of other people’s things.
* Don’t take advantage of someone’s kindness.
* If you do bad things in life, bad things will come back to you.
* Evil is punished and good is rewarded.
* Jealousy leads to negative outcomes: resentment, loneliness, violence
* Crime doesn’t pay.
* Be careful what you wish for.

**Courage:**

* Don’t be afraid to try new things.
* Try to compromise instead of abandoning a problem.
* Stand up for what you believe in.
* There is more to life than what you read in books.
* To succeed, you must first believe you can.
* First impressions are not always a true indication of what a person is really like.
* Celebrate your individuality.
* Change can be good if you give it a chance.

**Perseverance:**

* Never give up when faced with difficulty.
* Hard work can bring great rewards.
* Life doesn’t always go as planned; accept what come your way.
* Persistence pays off.

**Prejudice:**

* Accept and respect others’ differences.
* Don’t judge or stereotype other people.
* Accept people for who they are, instead of how they look.