

Name: _____

Date: _____

Important Other _____

Team: _____

Common ELA Story Themes

- Birth - life after loss, life sustains tragedy
- Death - death as mystery, death as a new beginning
- Heroism - false heroism, heroism and conflicting values
- Escape - escape from family pressures, escaping social constraints
- Love - love sustains/fades with a challenge
- Journey - most journeys lead back to home
- Coming of age - boy becomes a man
- Patriotism - inner conflicts stemming from patriotism
- Peace and war - war is tragic, peace is fleeting
- Hope - hope rebounds
- Hopelessness - finding hope after tragedy
- Generation gap - experience versus youthful strength
- Home - security of a homestead
- Betrayal - fading bonds of love
- Power - Lust for power
- Isolation - the isolation of a soul
- Judgment - balance between justice and judgement
- Fortune - a fall from grace and fortune
- Family - destruction of family
- Sense of self - finding strength from within
- God and spirituality - inner struggle of faith
- Good and evil - the coexistence of good and evil on earth
- Duty - the ethics of killing for duty
- Survival - man against nature
- Conformity - industrialization and the conformity of man
- Individualism - choosing between security and individualism
- Deception - appearance versus reality
- Race relations - learned racism
- Suffering - suffering as a natural part of human experience
- Alienation - creating emotional isolation
- Loss - loss of innocence, loss of individualism
- Discovery - conquering unknown, discovering strength

- Beauty of simplicity
- Capitalism – effect on the individual
- Change of power - necessity
- Change versus tradition
- Chaos and order
- Character – destruction, building up
- Circle of life
- Coming of age
- Communication – verbal and nonverbal
- Companionship as salvation
- Convention and rebellion
- Dangers of ignorance
- Darkness and light
- Death – inevitable or tragedy
- Desire to escape
- Destruction of beauty
- Disillusionment and dreams
- Displacement
- Empowerment
- Emptiness of attaining false dream
- Everlasting love
- Evils of racism
- Facing darkness
- Facing reality
- Fading beauty
- Faith versus doubt
- Family – blessing or curse
- Fate and free will
- Fear of failure
- Female roles
- Fulfillment
- Good versus bad
- Greed as downfall
- Growing up – pain or pleasure
- Hazards of passing judgment
- Heartbreak of betrayal
- Heroism – real and perceived
- Hierarchy in nature
- Identity crisis
- Illusion of power
- Immortality
- Individual versus society
- Inner versus outer strength
- Injustice
- Isolation
- Isolationism - hazards
- Knowledge versus ignorance
- Loneliness as destructive force
- Losing hope
- Loss of innocence
- Lost honor
- Lost love
- Love and sacrifice
- Man against nature
- Manipulation
- Materialism as downfall
- Motherhood
- Names – power and significance
- Nationalism – complications
- Nature as beauty
- Necessity of work
- Oppression of women
- Optimism – power or folly
- Overcoming – fear, weakness, vice
- Patriotism – positive side or complications
- Power and corruption
- Power of silence
- Power of tradition
- Power of wealth
- Power of words
- Pride and downfall
- Progress – real or illusion
- Quest for discovery
- Quest for power
- Rebirth
- Reunion
- Role of men
- Role of Religion – virtue or hypocrisy
- Role of women
- Self – inner and outer
- Self-awareness
- Self-preservation
- Self-reliance
- Social mobility
- Technology in society – good or bad
- Temporary nature of physical beauty
- Temptation and destruction
- Totalitarianism
- Vanity as downfall
- Vulnerability of the meek
- Vulnerability of the strong
- War – glory, necessity, pain, tragedy
- Will to survive
- Wisdom of experience
- Working class struggles