

The Themes in A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove

A theme is a recurring topic or subject that forms an important part of a novel, play or film. The author may not always refer to this subject explicitly, yet many events in the novel can be related to the theme, while the behaviour of the characters can often be understood better by focusing on this central idea. If you can identify the main themes of a work of literature or a film, you will be able to write about it and discuss it in greater depth and with more insight.

Can you identify a theme in Moloney's novel for each alphabet letter? Generate as many synonyms and antonyms as you can. For instance, "alienation" and "belonging" are basically opposing ideas relating to the same theme. A synonym for "alienation" could be "isolation".

a alienation, apathy, ambition, adulthood, adolescence, abandonment, abuse	b belonging, becoming an adult, becoming independent, body image, being powerless	C chaos (in the boys' lives), courage, cowardice	d deprivation, deception, desertion, despair, discrimination, dependence	e emotions, estrangement
f freedom, fear, family, feeling discarded, friendship, forgiveness, faith in oneself	g growing up, guilt, grief	h hiding emotions, hardship	i isolation, insecurity	j jealousy
k kindness	l longing, loneliness, love, learning, loss	m mockery, malice, manipulation	n narrow-mindedness, neglect, negligence, naivety	O overcoming prejudice, being an outsider or outcast, optimism
p privacy, prejudice, power, being powerless, pride, pessimism	r rejection, rancour (or refusal to forgive), resilience, resentment, remorse	S sense of wonder, self-reproach, spite, self-respect, strength	† feeling trapped, trust, taking charge of your life	U unfairness, using others, feeling unwanted
V vulnerability, vicious cruelty	W weakness, wonder, welfare, wariness	X exploitation	y yearning	Z zest for life