

## CONTROLLING IDEA/THEME CHEAT SHEET

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POSITIVE Controlling Idea	NEGATIVE Controlling Idea	Global VALUE	Global Value PROGRESSION	Global GENRE
<b>Life is preserved</b> when the protagonist overpowers or outwits his/her antagonists	<b>Death results</b> when the protagonist fails to overpower or outwit his/her antagonists	Life and Death	Life to Unconsciousness to Death to Damnation	<b>Action</b> (External)
<b>Justice prevails</b> when the protagonist overpowers or outwits his/her antagonist	<b>Tyranny reigns</b> when the perpetrator outwits the investigator by rigging or outwitting the system	Justice and Injustice	Tyranny to Injustice to Unfairness to Justice	<b>Crime</b> (External)
<b>Life is preserved</b> when the protagonist overpowers or outwits antagonists	<b>Death results</b> when the protagonist fails to overpower or outwit his/her antagonists	Life and Death	Life to Unconsciousness to Death to Death would be a Mercy	<b>Horror</b> (External)
<b>Love Triumphs</b> when lovers overcome moral failings or sacrifice their needs for one another	<b>Love fails</b> when the lovers don't evolve beyond desire	Desire/Commitment/Intimacy	Hate Masquerading as Love to Hate to Repulsion to Attraction to Desire/Commitment/Intimacy	<b>Love</b> (External)
<b>Good triumphs</b> when the Protagonist sacrifices worldly, selfish values in favor of the needs of others	<b>Evil reigns</b> when the Protagonist pursues selfish needs ahead of the needs of others	Selfishness and Altruism	Selfishness masked as Altruism to Putting one person's needs ahead of self to putting tribe's needs ahead of self to self-sacrifice for all of Humanity	<b>Morality</b> (Internal)
<b>We gain respect</b> when we commit to expressing our gifts unconditionally	<b>Shame results</b> when we hold our gifts back for fear of criticism and/or reprisal	Honor and Shame	Respected Publicly but Self-Ashamed to Shamed to Flawed to Honored/Respected	<b>Performance</b> (External)
<b>We gain power</b> when we expose the hypocrisy of tyrants	<b>Tyrants beat back</b> revolutions by coopting the leaders of the underclass	Power and Impotence	Impotence/Unwellness Masked as Power/Strength to Impotence to Vulnerability to Personal power/well-being	<b>Society</b> (External)
<b>Success results</b> when a person is true to their values whether or not it leads to social betterment	<b>Failure results</b> when a person sells out their values for unworthy goals	Success and Failure	Selling out to Failure to Compromise to Success	<b>Status</b> (Internal)
<b>Life is preserved</b> when the Protagonist unleashes his or her special gift	<b>Death or damnation triumphs</b> when the Protagonist fails to unleash his or her special gift	Life and Death	Life to Unconsciousness to Death to Damnation Fate worse than death	<b>Thriller</b> (External)
<b>War's meaning emerges</b> from the nobility of the love and self-sacrifice of soldiers for each other	<b>War lacks meaning</b> when leaders are corrupt and dishonor soldiers sacrifices on the battlefield	Honor & Disgrace OR Victory & Defeat	Dishonorable defeat Presented as Honor to Defeat with Dishonor to Defeat with Honor to Victory with Honor	<b>War</b> (External)
<b>Justice prevails</b> when the uncompromising individual sacrifices himself or herself for the good of all	<b>Tyranny reigns</b> when the savior of society is betrayed by the very people he or she defends	Freedom and Subjugation	Subjugation Perceived as Freedom to Subjugation to Restraint to Freedom, Autonomy	<b>Western</b> (External)
<b>Wisdom and meaning prevail</b> when we learn to express our gifts in a world that we accept as imperfect	<b>Ignorance/Naivete/Meaninglessness reign</b> when we fail to mature past a black-and-white view of the world	Naivete and Sophistication	Negatives Masked as Positives to Naivete/ Disillusionment/Meaninglessness, Ignorance to Cognitive Dissonance to Sophistication/Belief/ Meaning/Wisdom	<b>Worldview</b> (Internal)