

Uncommon Themes In Literature



Uncommon Themes in Literature: Beyond the Familiar Tropes

Are you tired of the same old love stories, heroic quests, and battles against evil? Do you crave literary experiences that challenge your assumptions and offer fresh perspectives? Then you've come to the right place. This post delves into the fascinating world of uncommon themes in literature, exploring narratives that venture beyond the well-trodden paths and offer a richer, more nuanced understanding of the human condition. We'll uncover hidden gems, examine unexpected character motivations, and reveal the surprising power of unconventional storytelling. Prepare to expand your literary horizons and discover the beauty of narratives that dare to be different.

The Allure of the Absurd: Existentialism and the Human Condition

One striking trend in contemporary literature is the exploration of the absurd. This isn't merely slapstick humor; it's a deep dive into the inherent meaninglessness often felt in a chaotic world. Authors like Albert Camus, in his seminal work *The Stranger*, showcase characters grappling with the lack of inherent meaning, forcing readers to confront their own existential anxieties. This theme, while potentially unsettling, offers a potent lens through which to examine human behavior and the

search for purpose in a seemingly indifferent universe.

Beyond the Expected: The Power of the Grotesque

The grotesque, often employed to evoke disgust or revulsion, can be a surprisingly powerful tool in exploring deeper societal issues. Authors use physical deformities or exaggerated features to highlight moral decay, societal hypocrisy, or the unsettling consequences of unchecked power. Think of the distorted characters in the works of Edgar Allan Poe or the unsettling imagery in some of Franz Kafka's writings. The grotesque, when skillfully employed, transcends mere shock value and becomes a potent symbol of the anxieties lurking beneath the surface of seemingly normal lives.

The Uncanny Valley of Familiarity: Exploring the Unsettlingly Familiar

The grotesque often intertwines with the uncanny, a feeling of unsettling familiarity. This unsettling feeling stems from encountering something that mimics the familiar but is slightly off, creating a sense of unease and discomfort. This technique, frequently found in gothic literature and horror, effectively heightens suspense and forces readers to confront hidden fears and repressed anxieties.

The Exploration of Identity: Beyond Binary Oppositions

Traditional literature often relies on binary oppositions: good versus evil, light versus dark. However, many contemporary authors are challenging these simplistic frameworks by exploring the complexities of identity. This includes delving into non-binary genders, questioning societal norms around sexuality, and showcasing characters who defy easy categorization. The exploration of fluid identities reflects a growing awareness of the spectrum of human experience and pushes back against rigid societal structures.

The Politics of the Mundane: Micro-narratives and Everyday Resistance

Instead of focusing on grand historical events, some authors choose to examine the subtle acts of resistance and resilience found in everyday life. These micro-narratives reveal the political within the seemingly mundane, showcasing the everyday struggles and triumphs of ordinary people. By focusing on the granular details of daily life, these authors reveal the profound impact of seemingly insignificant actions and highlight the pervasive nature of power structures, even within seemingly commonplace settings.

The Power of Silence and the Unspoken: Exploring the Subtext

Silence can be as powerful a narrative tool as words. Many authors use unspoken truths, implied meanings, and deliberate absences to create depth and complexity in their narratives. This forces the reader to actively participate in the storytelling process, interpreting the silences and drawing their own conclusions. The unspoken elements often become the most potent aspects of the story, revealing subtexts and unspoken anxieties.

Redefining the Hero: Anti-heroes and Moral Ambiguity

The classic hero archetype is often challenged in modern literature by the rise of the anti-hero. These characters may lack traditional heroic qualities, possessing flaws and moral ambiguities that make them more relatable—and sometimes even more compelling—than their virtuous counterparts. Exploring the complexities of morality, these characters allow for a more nuanced exploration of human nature and the grey areas of ethical decision-making.

Technological Dystopias and the Human Spirit: Exploring the Future

Technological advancements are increasingly influencing how we perceive ourselves and the world around us. Many contemporary authors use their work to explore the potential dystopian consequences of unchecked technological progress. These narratives often examine the loss of humanity in a hyper-technological world, exploring themes of surveillance, control, and the erosion of personal freedom.

Conclusion

The exploration of uncommon themes in literature offers a refreshing alternative to familiar narratives. By venturing beyond the expected, authors challenge our assumptions, expand our understanding of the human condition, and offer compelling new perspectives on the world around us. The exploration of the absurd, the grotesque, fluid identities, and the anti-hero allows for a more nuanced and complex portrayal of human experience, making literature both more relevant and more engaging.

FAQs:

1. What makes a theme "uncommon" in literature? A theme becomes uncommon when it moves beyond the typical tropes of love, war, and adventure, focusing on less frequently explored aspects of the human experience, such as existentialism, the grotesque, or the political implications of everyday life.
2. Are uncommon themes only found in contemporary literature? No, uncommon themes have always existed, though their prominence has shifted over time. Many classic works explore unconventional topics, even if they weren't identified as such at the time of their publication.
3. How can I identify uncommon themes while reading? Pay attention to the underlying messages and ideas explored in the narrative. Consider the author's focus—are they challenging traditional ideas? Are they exploring unconventional characters or situations?
4. Why is it important to explore uncommon themes in literature? Exploring uncommon themes broadens our understanding of the human condition, allowing for more empathetic and nuanced perspectives. It challenges established norms and encourages critical thinking.
5. Where can I find books that explore uncommon themes? Independent bookstores, literary magazines, and online book reviews are excellent resources for discovering novels, short stories, and essays that venture beyond the expected. Look for authors who explicitly address unconventional themes in their work or whose writing consistently showcases fresh perspectives.

uncommon themes in literature: *The Uncommon Reader* Alan Bennett, 2007-09-18 From one of England's most celebrated writers, a funny and superbly observed novella about the Queen of England and the subversive power of reading When her corgis stray into a mobile library parked near Buckingham Palace, the Queen feels duty-bound to borrow a book. Discovering the joy of reading widely (from J. R. Ackerley, Jean Genet, and Ivy Compton-Burnett to the classics) and intelligently, she finds that her view of the world changes dramatically. Abetted in her newfound obsession by Norman, a young man from the royal kitchens, the Queen comes to question the prescribed order of the world and loses patience with the routines of her role as monarch. Her new passion for reading initially alarms the palace staff and soon leads to surprising and very funny consequences for the country at large. With the poignant and mischievous wit of *The History Boys*, England's best loved author Alan Bennett revels in the power of literature to change even the most uncommon reader's life.

uncommon themes in literature: *Uncommon Type* Tom Hanks, 2017-10-17 A collection of seventeen wonderful short stories showing that the legendary Tom Hanks is as talented a writer as he is an actor. "Reading Tom Hanks's *Uncommon Type* is like finding out that Alice Munro is also the greatest actress of our time." —Ann Patchett, bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Dutch House* A gentle Eastern European immigrant arrives in New York City after his family and his life have been torn apart by his country's civil war. A man who loves to bowl rolls a perfect game--and then another and then another and then many more in a row until he winds up ESPN's newest celebrity, and he must decide if the combination of perfection and celebrity has ruined the thing he loves. An eccentric billionaire and his faithful executive assistant venture into America looking for acquisitions and discover a down and out motel, romance, and a bit of real life. These are just some of the tales Tom Hanks tells in this first collection of his short stories. They are surprising, intelligent, heartwarming, and, for the millions and millions of Tom Hanks fans, an absolute

must-have!

uncommon themes in literature: The Seventh Most Important Thing Shelley Pearsall, 2016-10-04 This "luminescent" (Kirkus Reviews) story of anger and art, loss and redemption will appeal to fans of Lisa Graff's *Lost in the Sun* and Vince Vawter's *Paperboy*. NOMINATED FOR 16 STATE AWARDS! AN ALA NOTABLE BOOK AN ILA TEACHERS CHOICE A KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie forever. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . . Inspired by the work of folk artist James Hampton, Shelley Pearsall has crafted an affecting and redemptive novel about discovering what shines within us all, even when life seems full of darkness. "A moving exploration of how there is often so much more than meets the eye." —Booklist, starred review "There are so many things to love about this book. Remarkable." —The Christian Science Monitor

uncommon themes in literature: Outlining Your Novel K. M. Weiland, 2011-07 This bestselling guide will help you choose the right type of outline to unleash your creativity as a writer, guide you in brainstorming plot ideas, and aid you in discovering your characters.

uncommon themes in literature: Mayombe Pepetela, 1996 Pepetela's novel is a fascinating study of the tensions produced by racism, tribalism, and sexual morals.

uncommon themes in literature: The Writer's Portable Mentor Priscilla Long, 2018 Designed to mentor writers at all levels, from beginning to quite advanced, *The Writer's Portable Mentor* offers a wealth of insight and crafting models from the author's twenty-plus years of teaching and creative thought. The book provides tools for structuring a book, story, or essay. It trains writers in observation and in developing a poet's ear for sound in prose. It scrutinizes the sentence strategies of the masters and offers advice on how to publish. This second edition is updated to account for changes in the publishing industry and provides hundreds of new craft models to inspire, guide, and develop every writer's work.

uncommon themes in literature: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Mark Haddon, 2009-02-24 A bestselling modern classic—both poignant and funny—narrated by a fifteen year old autistic savant obsessed with Sherlock Holmes, this dazzling novel weaves together an old-fashioned mystery, a contemporary coming-of-age story, and a fascinating excursion into a mind incapable of processing emotions. Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher is autistic. Everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning for him. At fifteen, Christopher's carefully constructed world falls apart when he finds his neighbour's dog Wellington impaled on a garden fork, and he is initially blamed for the killing. Christopher decides that he will track down the real killer, and turns to his favourite fictional character, the impeccably logical Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration. But the investigation leads him down some unexpected paths and ultimately brings him face to face with the dissolution of his parents' marriage. As Christopher tries to deal with the crisis within his own family, the narrative draws readers into the workings of Christopher's mind. And herein lies the key to the brilliance of Mark Haddon's choice of narrator: The most wrenching of emotional moments are chronicled by a boy who cannot fathom emotions. The effect is dazzling, making for one of the freshest debut in years: a comedy, a tearjerker, a mystery story, a novel of exceptional literary merit that is great fun to read.

uncommon themes in literature: The Authentic Swing Steven Pressfield, 2013-09-24 The Story Behind THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE If you've read his books THE WAR OF ART and

TURNING PRO, you know that for thirty years Steven Pressfield (GATES OF FIRE, THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN etc.) wrote spec novel after spec novel before any publisher took him seriously. How did he finally break through? Ignoring just about every rule of commercial book publishing, Pressfield's first novel not only became a major bestseller (over 250,000 copies sold), it was adapted into a feature film directed by Robert Redford and starring Matt Damon, Will Smith, and Charlize Theron. Where did he get the idea? What magical something did THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE have that his previous manuscripts lacked? Why did Pressfield decide to write a novel when he already had a well established screenwriting career? How does writing a publishable novel really work? Taking a page from John Steinbeck's classic JOURNAL OF A NOVEL, Steven Pressfield offers answers for these and scores of other practical writing questions in THE AUTHENTIC SWING.

uncommon themes in literature: Jackaroo Cynthia Voigt, 1985 When hard times among the People revive the old stories of the hero Jackaroo, an innkeeper's daughter follows her own quest to unlock the secret reality behind the legend.

uncommon themes in literature: A Story is a Promise Bill Johnson, 2000 A Story Is a Promise offers a new model for understanding one of the most difficult of all arts: writing dramatic, engaging stories. Written in a style reminiscent of a workshop, A Story Is a Promise guides the writer toward a keen understanding of the principle underlying all well-told stories, that a story is both a promise made and a promise kept. Step by step, this book teaches writers how to set out a story's promise in an active voice, which is the voice of the true storyteller.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

uncommon themes in literature: Writing Your Legacy Richard Campbell, Cheryl Svensson, 2015-07-23 Craft a meaningful life story! A written legacy of your life--one that encompasses experiences, lessons learned, failures and triumphs--is a gift your family and friends will cherish for years to come. Writing this story may seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Writing Your Legacy is a step-by-step guide to chronicling a life story that reflects your true self. Through a series of 35 guided themes, as well as supplementary exercises, you'll explore milestones, relationships, career paths, and major choices, and leave an eloquent record of your life for future generations. You'll also learn how to: • Become the hero of your story • Employ vibrant sensory details • Discover your unique voice • Dig up memories from your childhood and teen years • Overcome writer's block, address common fears, and stay motivated • Prepare your story for publication Writing your life story can grant you insight and clarity, help you heal past wounds, and serve as a treasured account you'll be proud to share. Your story deserves to be told. Capture the spirit of your life with Writing Your Legacy.

uncommon themes in literature: Metamorphosis Franz Kafka, 2021-03-19 Franz Kafka, the author has very nicely narrated the story of Gregor Samsa who wakes up one day to discover that he has metamorphosed into a bug. The book concerns itself with the themes of alienation and existentialism. The author has written many important stories, including "The Judgement", and much of his novels "Amerika", "The Castle", "The Hunger Artist". Many of his stories were published during his lifetime but many were not. Over the course of the 1920s and 30s Kafka's works were published and translated instantly becoming landmarks of twentieth-century literature. Ironically, the story ends on an optimistic note, as the family puts itself back together. The style of the book epitomizes Kafka's writing. Kafka very interestingly, used to present an impossible situation, such as a man's transformation into an insect, and develop the story from there with perfect realism and intense attention to detail. The Metamorphosis is an autobiographical piece of writing, and we find that parts of the story reflect Kafka's own life.

uncommon themes in literature: The Wall of Storms Ken Liu, 2016-10-04 One of the Time 100 Best Fantasy Books Of All Time In the much-anticipated sequel to the "magnificent fantasy epic" (NPR) Grace of Kings, Emperor Kuni Garu is faced with the invasion of an invincible army in his kingdom and must quickly find a way to defeat the intruders. Kuni Garu, now known as Emperor Ragin, runs the archipelago kingdom of Dara, but struggles to maintain progress while serving the demands of the people and his vision. Then an unexpected invading force from the Lyucu empire in

the far distant west comes to the shores of Dara—and chaos results. But Emperor Kuni cannot go and lead his kingdom against the threat himself with his recently healed empire fraying at the seams, so he sends the only people he trusts to be Dara's savvy and cunning hopes against the invincible invaders: his children, now grown and ready to make their mark on history.

uncommon themes in literature: *The Grace of Kings* Ken Liu, 2015-04-07 One of the Time 100 Best Fantasy Books Of All Time Two men rebel together against tyranny—and then become rivals—in this first sweeping book of an epic fantasy series from Ken Liu, recipient of Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards. Hailed as one of the best books of 2015 by NPR. Wily, charming Kuni Garu, a bandit, and stern, fearless Mata Zyndu, the son of a deposed duke, seem like polar opposites. Yet, in the uprising against the emperor, the two quickly become the best of friends after a series of adventures fighting against vast conscripted armies, silk-draped airships, and shapeshifting gods. Once the emperor has been overthrown, however, they each find themselves the leader of separate factions—two sides with very different ideas about how the world should be run and the meaning of justice. Fans of intrigue, intimate plots, and action will find a new series to embrace in the Dandelion Dynasty.

uncommon themes in literature: *American Born Chinese* Gene Luen Yang, 2006-09-06 A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax. *American Born Chinese* is a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring and a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core Connections

uncommon themes in literature: *Structuring Your Novel* K. M. Weiland, 2013 Acclaim for *Structuring Your Novel* I have long wished for a book like this. *Structuring Your Novel* is so much more than a writing craft book—it's a recipe to help writers structure a deep, meaningful journey for their hero that will captivate readers from beginning to end.—Angela Ackerman, Author of *The Emotion Thesaurus* There is absolute gold in this book—and I am grateful that the author has a real talent for distilling some of the somewhat clunky information found elsewhere, into really simple-to-understand and easy-to-follow techniques.—Robert Scanlon This book shows a writer how to structure their novel from beginning to end in a no-nonsense manner. It's fast and easy reading, and MAKES SENSE —Carrie C. Spencer About the Book Is Structure the Hidden Foundation of All Successful Stories? Why do some stories work and others don't? The answer is structure. In this IPPY and NIEA-Award winning guide from the author of the bestselling *Outlining Your Novel*, you will learn the universal underpinnings that guarantee powerful plot and character arcs. An understanding of proper story and scene structure will show you how to perfectly time your story's major events and will provide you with an unerring standard against which to evaluate your novel's pacing and progression. *Structuring Your Novel* will show you: How to determine the best techniques for empowering your unique and personal vision for your story. How to identify common structural weaknesses and flip them around into stunning strengths. How to eliminate saggy middles by discovering your centerpiece. Why you should NEVER include conflict in every scene. How to discover the questions you don't want readers asking about your plot—and then how to get them to ask the right questions. Story structure has enabled countless bestselling and classic authors. Now it's your turn More Praise for *Structuring Your Novel* K.M. Weiland delivers another exceptional resource for writers—offering practical guidance on everything from crafting a book's hook to its resolution.—Elizabeth Spann Craig, Author of the *Myrtle Clover Mysteries* *Structuring Your Novel* will give you the blueprint for making your story more powerful. I'm taking this one with me to my desert island —Jennifer Ibarra After finishing the book, I reviewed my own writing and was easily able to see

where the story wasn't working, understand why it wasn't, and figure out what I needed to do to fix it.-Abby Geiger More storytelling assistance from K.M. Weiland: Outlining Your Novel: Map Your Way to Success-Can outlining help you write a better story?

uncommon themes in literature: Writing Your Story's Theme K. M. Weiland, 2020-10-12 Theme Is What Your Story Is Really About Theme-the mysterious cousin of plot and character. Too often viewed as abstract rather than actionable, theme is frequently misunderstood and left to chance. Some writers even insist theme should not be purposefully implemented. This is unfortunate, because in many ways theme is story. Theme is the heart, the meaning, the point. Nothing that important should be overlooked. Powerful themes are never incidental. They emerge from the conjunction of strong plots and resonant character arcs. This means you can learn to plan and implement theme. In doing so, you will deepen your ability to write not only stories that entertain, but also stories that stay with readers long after the end. Writing Your Story's Theme will teach you: How to create theme from plot and character. Why every supporting character and subplot should enhance the theme. How to prevent theme from seeming preachy or on the nose. What to consider in identifying the best theme for any given story. And much more! Conscious mastery of theme will elevate every story you write and allow you to craft fiction of depth and meaning. Take Control of Your Story Via a Powerful Implementation of Theme

uncommon themes in literature: Light From Uncommon Stars Ryka Aoki, 2021-09-28 Good Omens meets The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet in Ryka Aoki's Light From Uncommon Stars, a defiantly joyful adventure set in California's San Gabriel Valley, with cursed violins, Faustian bargains, and queer alien courtship over fresh-made donuts. Hugo Award Finalist A National Bestseller Indie Next Pick New York Public Library Top 10 Book of 2021 A Kirkus Best Book of 2021 A Barnes & Noble Best Science Fiction Book of 2021 2022 Alex Award Winner 2022 Stonewall Book Award Winner Shizuka Satomi made a deal with the devil: to escape damnation, she must entice seven other violin prodigies to trade their souls for success. She has already delivered six. When Katrina Nguyen, a young transgender runaway, catches Shizuka's ear with her wild talent, Shizuka can almost feel the curse lifting. She's found her final candidate. But in a donut shop off a bustling highway in the San Gabriel Valley, Shizuka meets Lan Tran, retired starship captain, interstellar refugee, and mother of four. Shizuka doesn't have time for crushes or coffee dates, what with her very soul on the line, but Lan's kind smile and eyes like stars might just redefine a soul's worth. And maybe something as small as a warm donut is powerful enough to break a curse as vast as the California coastline. As the lives of these three women become entangled by chance and fate, a story of magic, identity, curses, and hope begins, and a family worth crossing the universe for is found. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

uncommon themes in literature: Every Day David Levithan, 2012-08-28 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR by Booklist • Kirkus Reviews Celebrate all the ways love makes us who we are with the romance that Entertainment Weekly calls wise, wildly unique--from the bestselling co-author of Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist--about a teen who wakes up every morning in a different body, living a different life. Now a major motion picture! Every day a different body. Every day a different life. Every day in love with the same girl. There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with--day in, day out, day after day. With his new novel, David Levithan, bestselling co-author of Will Grayson, Will Grayson, and Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, has pushed himself to new creative heights. He has written a captivating story that will fascinate readers as they begin to comprehend the complexities of life and love in A's world, as A and Rhiannon seek to discover if you can truly love someone who is destined to change every day. "A story that is always alluring, oftentimes humorous and much like love itself--

splendorous.” —Los Angeles Times

uncommon themes in literature: Infomocracy Malka Older, 2016-06-07 Read Infomocracy, the first book in Campbell Award finalist Malka Older's groundbreaking cyberpunk political thriller series The Centenal Cycle, a finalist for the Hugo Award for Best Series, and the novel NPR called Kinetic and gripping. • A Locus Award Finalist for Best First Novel • The book The Huffington Post called one of the greatest literary debuts in recent history • One of Kirkus' Best Fiction of 2016 • One of The Washington Post's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of 2016 • One of Book Riot's Best Books of 2016 So Far It's been twenty years and two election cycles since Information, a powerful search engine monopoly, pioneered the switch from warring nation-states to global micro-democracy. The corporate coalition party Heritage has won the last two elections. With another election on the horizon, the Supermajority is in tight contention, and everything's on the line. With power comes corruption. For Ken, this is his chance to do right by the idealistic Policy1st party and get a steady job in the big leagues. For Domaine, the election represents another staging ground in his ongoing struggle against the pax democratica. For Mishima, a dangerous Information operative, the whole situation is a puzzle: how do you keep the wheels running on the biggest political experiment of all time, when so many have so much to gain? Infomocracy is Malka Older's debut novel. THE CENTENAL CYCLE Book 1: Infomocracy Book 2: Null States Book 3: State Tectonics PRAISE FOR INFOMOCRACY “A fast-paced, post-cyberpunk political thriller... If you always wanted to put The West Wing in a particle accelerator with Snow Crash to see what would happen, read this book.” —Max Gladstone, author of Last First Snow Smart, ambitious, bursting with provocative extrapolations, Infomocracy is the big-data-big-ideas-techno-analytical-microdemoglobal-post-everything political thriller we've been waiting for. —Ken Liu, author of The Grace of Kings In the mid-21st century, your biggest threat isn't Artificial Intelligence—it's other people. Yet the passionate, partisan, political and ultimately fallible men and women fighting for their beliefs are also Infomocracy's greatest hope. An inspiring book about what we frail humans could still achieve, if we learn to work together. —Karl Schroeder, author of Lockstep and the Virga saga At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

uncommon themes in literature: The Proudest Blue Ibtihaj Muhammad, 2019-09-10 THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school--and two sisters on one's first day of hijab--by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad. With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong. Paired with Hatem Aly's beautiful, whimsical art, Olympic medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad and Morris Award finalist S.K. Ali bring readers an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are. **Discover more of Faizah and Asiya's stories in The Kindest Red, a story of hijab and friendship; and The Boldest White, a story of hijab and community!

uncommon themes in literature: Dracula Bram Stoker, 1982-04-12 String garlic by the window and hang a cross around your neck! The most powerful vampire of all time returns in our Stepping Stone Classic adaption of the original tale by Bran Stoker. Follow Johnathan Harker, Mina Harker, and Dr. Abraham van Helsing as they discover the true nature of evil. Their battle to destroy Count Dracula takes them from the crags of his castle to the streets of London... and back again.

uncommon themes in literature: How to Read Literature Like a Professor 3E Thomas C. Foster, 2024-11-05 Thoroughly revised and expanded for a new generation of readers, this classic guide to enjoying literature to its fullest—a lively, enlightening, and entertaining introduction to a diverse range of writing and literary devices that enrich these works, including symbols, themes, and contexts—teaches you how to make your everyday reading experience richer and more rewarding. While books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary

meanings beneath the surface. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the practiced analytical eye—and the literary codes—of a college professor. What does it mean when a protagonist is traveling along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Thomas C. Foster provides answers to these questions as he explores every aspect of fiction, from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form. Offering a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—he shows us how to make our reading experience more intellectually satisfying and fun. The world, and curricula, have changed. This third edition has been thoroughly revised to reflect those changes, and features new chapters, a new preface and epilogue, as well as fresh teaching points Foster has developed over the past decade. Foster updates the books he discusses to include more diverse, inclusive, and modern works, such as Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*; Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven*; Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*; Elizabeth Acevedo's *The Poet X*; Helen Oyeyemi's *Mr. Fox and Boy*, *Snow, Bird*; Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*; Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet*; Madeline Miller's *Circe*; Pat Barker's *The Silence of the Girls*; and Tahereh Mafi's *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*.

uncommon themes in literature: *The Black Prism* Brent Weeks, 2010-08-25 In a world where magic is tightly controlled, the most powerful man in history must choose between his kingdom and his son in the first book in the epic NYT bestselling *Lightbringer* series. Guile is the Prism. He is high priest and emperor, a man whose power, wit, and charm are all that preserves a tenuous peace. Yet Prisms never last, and Guile knows exactly how long he has left to live. When Guile discovers he has a son, born in a far kingdom after the war that put him in power, he must decide how much he's willing to pay to protect a secret that could tear his world apart. If you loved the action and adventure of the *Night Angel* trilogy, you will devour this incredible epic fantasy series by Brent Weeks.

uncommon themes in literature: *Dash & Laila* Brad Chisholm, 2020-08-20 Is there a stronger adversary than Fate? Dash and Laila are only 16. Their life paths have been set by their families and should never cross, until they do...

uncommon themes in literature: *Chrysanthemum Big Book* Kevin Henkes, 2007-10-02 She was a perfect baby, and she had a perfect name. Chrysanthemum. Chrysanthemum loved her name—until she started school. A terrific read-aloud for the classroom and libraries!

uncommon themes in literature: *Walking on Water* Madeleine L'Engle, 2016-10-11 In this classic book, Madeleine L'Engle addresses the questions, What makes art Christian? What does it mean to be a Christian artist? What is the relationship between faith and art? Through L'Engle's beautiful and insightful essay, readers will find themselves called to what the author views as the prime tasks of an artist: to listen, to remain aware, and to respond to creation through one's own art.

uncommon themes in literature: *A Wrinkle in Time* Madeleine L'Engle, 2010-04-01
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seems, can they help each other? Or will they sink into a sea of troubles? You'll never know. Until the last page. Another top story from Australia's master of the trick ending.

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updated, this educational edition includes chapter summaries, comprehension questions, discussion points, classroom activities, a biographical profile of Golding, historical context relevant to the novel and an essay on Lord of the Flies by William Golding entitled 'Fable'. Aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, it also includes a section on literary theory for advanced or A-level students. The educational edition encourages original and independent thinking while guiding the student through the text - ideal for use in the classroom and at home.

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