

## Universal Themes:

When you read a story or novel, it should contain a central idea or message. Often this message revolves around the meaning of life or how one should ideally live. The theme of a novel is not always stated outright, but rather the reader must often figure this message out by observing the characters and how they behave and react to other characters and to events. You will ask yourself why do humans act the way they do? Why do some people care for others while others cause trouble in life? What causes a person to change or to grow? What are the human weaknesses and strengths in the characters? We also ask ourselves if we ourselves can relate to the characteristics and the actions of a character?

Themes:

The list below contains thematic categories, areas where one can find a central idea, message, or understanding people or life experienced in The Underwater Adventures of Capt'n Eli. If your group can think of other categories please feel free to add to the list.

1. Peace
2. Courage
3. War
4. Love
5. Respect
6. Art and Beauty
7. Contentment
8. Friendship
9. Loyalty
10. Ambition
11. Age and Wisdom
12. Spiritual Consciousness

As you select different themes or messages that you see as playing an important part in these graphic novels, make sure to write specific examples beside each one. For instance, if you see Courage as a major theme, give examples of who is courageous and what specific events happen to that person where he acts courageously. In other words, justify your choices.

In your final presentation, the theme should be clear to the listener as you create your script and characters.