

Sample literary thesis sentences using motif tracing as the literary prompt:

A. Relating motif to themes in literary work:

In *Macbeth*, blood imagery serves as a unifying motif for the themes of superstition, corruption, and blind ambition. [Key term thesis]

B. Relating motif to symbols in the literary work:

Shakespeare's symbolically uses animal imagery to reveal the witches' duplicity, Macbeth's ruthlessness, and Macbeth's ultimate fall from power. [Key term thesis]

C. Tracing the evolution of the motif from beginning to middle to end to illustrate theme, symbol, or both theme/symbol.

What begins as an innocent retreat from the toils of the day, the motif of sleep evolves over the course of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to symbolize the tortured guilt of Macbeth and his wife. [Occasion/Position thesis]