Cheat sheet

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| Themes | Stories | Explanation |
| Gender roles, masculinity | Munro's Boys and Girls  Woolf’s The Mark on the Wall | A young girl on puberty learns the differences of gender when she has to fit in the feminine role. A woman is portrayed as emotionally weak and dependent.  Men take authoritative roles and are ruling the world. |
| Destructive relationships | Bradbury’s The Veldt  Saunder’s Puppy  Checkov’s Gooseberries | Parental negligence and inability to perform their duty results in destructive relationships between parents and children.  The video game destructs the behaviour of the child that causes his mother to take strict measures for preventing him from danger.  Technology has undermined the relationship between children and parents. |
| Isolation | Checkov’s Gooseberries  Bradbury's The Veldt | Increased dependence on technology causes social isolation. Children spend more time on social media that distances them from their parents.  Prenatal negligence creates isolation for the children. |
| Search for freedom | Dandicat A Wall on Fire Rising  Morrison’s Recitatif  Byet’s The Thing in the Forest | The story exhibits the search for freedom and escapes from poverty. The balloon is the symbolic language for freedom.  The sufferings of blacks are the result of racism. The word Nigger portrays racial discrimination and searches for freedom. The absence of freedom undermines the concept of peace and liberty.  Themes of escape are visible in Penny’s and Promise’s attempts of leaving forest. |
| Grief and trauma | Poe’s The Cask of Amontillado    Mukherjee’s The Management of Grief  Byet’s The Thing in the Forest | Montresor in the story encounters grief that promotes the feelings of vengeance and madness. Trauma is apparent in the intoxication of the character.  Shalia is a middle-aged Indian widow who encounters trauma and grief. Mourners symbolize grief and loss.  Forest symbolized loss and grief. Penny and Promise struggles of escaping the forest represent their trauma. |