A Kind of Murder

Theme

A theme should be a statement that expresses a universal message that stretches through an entire story, and it may show up in a pattern. To determine the theme of a book, you should select a word that expresses the subject of your story and try to expand the word into a message about life.

Change of power
Change versus tradition
Chaos and order
Character – destruction, building up
Circle of life
Coming of age
Communication – verbal and nonverbal
Companionship
Convention and rebellion
Dangers of ignorance
Darkness and light
Desire to escape
Destruction of beauty
Disillusionment and dreams
Empowerment
Emptiness of attaining false dream
Everlasting love
Evils of racism
Facing reality
Fading beauty
Faith versus doubt
Family – blessing or curse
Fate and free will
Fear of failure
Female roles
Fulfillment
Good versus bad
Greed as downfall
Growing up – pain or pleasure
Hazards of passing judgment
Heartbreak of betrayal
Heroism – real and perceived
Hierarchy in nature
Identity crisis
Illusion of power
Immortality
Individual versus society
Inner versus outer strength
Injustice
Isolation
Knowledge versus ignorance
Loneliness as destructive force
Losing hope
Loss of innocence
Lost honor
Lost love
Love and sacrifice
Man against nature
Manipulation
Materialism as downfall
Motherhood
Names – power and significance
Nationalism – complications
Nature as beauty
Necessity of work
Optimism – power or folly
Overcoming – fear, weakness, vice
Patriotism – positive side or complications
Pity
Power and corruption
Power of silence
Power of tradition
Power of wealth
Power of words
Pride and downfall
Progress – real or illusion
Quest for discovery
Quest for power
Rebirth
Reunion
Role of men
Role of women
Self-awareness
Self-preservation
Self-reliance
Social mobility
Technology in society – good or bad
Temporary nature of physical beauty
Temptation and destruction
Totalitarianism
Vanity as downfall
Vulnerability of the meek
Vulnerability of the strong
War – glory, necessity, pain, tragedy
Will to survive
Wisdom of experience
Working class struggles
Youth and beauty

Are there any other words that could express the subject of “A Kind of Murder”? If so, write them in the margins.
Examples of turning a word/phrase that expresses the subject of your book into a message about life:

1) *Sherlock Holmes*

   Word: Crime
   Message: Crime is always punished.

2) *Romeo and Juliet*

   Word: Love
   Message: Love is more powerful than hate.

3) *Ish*

   Word: Self-Esteem
   Message: Positive self-esteem is needed in order to be successful.

Your turn!

*A Kind of Murder*: Word/Phrase ________________________________

Message: ________________________________

Please explain this message and use textual examples to showcase this theme being present throughout the entire story:

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