



Comparative Study

Theme: Escape in Casablanca and Sive

What does the theme teach us? SIVE

- A person's desire to escape can be thwarted if another, stronger-willed person is intent on preventing them from doing so to serve their own ends.
- In seeking to escape their past, people can become caught in a vicious cycle unless they face up to the truth, deal with it and move on with their lives.
- A person who feels isolated and alone has little chance of escaping their fate. Sometimes people need the support and encouragement of others to affect their escape and achieve their desired outcome.
- When there seem to be no avenues of escape left, a person may be driven to complete despair and may escape in the only way they can.

What does the theme teach us?

- Like Sive; Ilsa, Laszlo and Rick face serious opposition in their efforts to escape. Unlike Sive, however, they are independent and strong-willed enough to defeat those who oppose them. Strength of character is essential if a person is to break free of the bonds that hold them. But that cannot easily be achieved if, like Sive, a person has been bullied and oppressed from a young age.
- Like Mike, Rick has tried to escape the past. In his case, he wants to escape the painful memories of his time in Paris with Ilsa and his destiny as a resistance fighter. Unlike Mike, however, Rick is able to face his past in the end when Ilsa finally gets a chance to explain herself to him. Honesty and openness about the past, no matter how painful, is better than lies and a stubborn refusal to listen to the truth.
- Unlike Sive; Rick, Ilsa and Laszlo have support and they help one another in their efforts to escape the Nazis. Sive becomes more and more isolated as the play progresses, and her escape seems less and less likely, while Rick, Ilsa and Laszlo come to a greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Those who are supported have a far greater chance of escaping the problems that besiege them.