

# **COURAGE AND COWARDICE**

 *The Kite Runner*

 *Macbeth*

 *The Stories of  
Doyle, Oates, and Poe*

**Books on Similar Themes  
and  
Supporting Materials**

**for  
English Literary Focus 11 – ENGL3S  
Mr. T. Friesen**

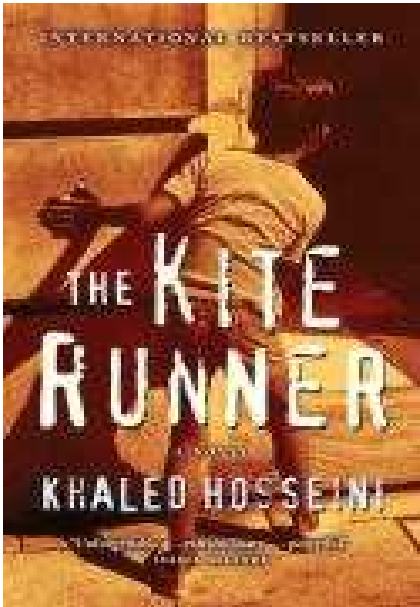
**Compiled by  
Mrs. A. Osborne  
Teacher-Librarian**

## Books with Themes Similar to *The Kite Runner*

Title	Author	Themes
<i>Kabul Beauty School</i>	Rodriguez, Deborah	determination; courage; gender roles; empowerment through education
<i>Three Cups of Tea</i>	Mortenson, Greg	turning hardship into opportunities; overcoming cultural differences; empowerment through education; gender roles; perseverance
<i>The Swallows of Kabul</i>	Khadra, Yasmina	conscience; gender roles; religion; justice; marriage; man vs. society
<i>A Fine Balance</i>	Mistry, Rohinton	corruption of power; friendship; cruelty and kindness; societal differences
<i>Atonement</i>	McEwan, Ian	coming of age; compassion and forgiveness; family; sex; versions of reality; deceit; class issues; war
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	Kidd, Sue Monk	forgiveness; racism and prejudice; family; appearances vs. reality; death; maternity and femininity; lies and deceit
<i>Dreams of Joy</i>	See, Lisa	power of government; family bonds; determination; gender roles
<i>Anil's Ghost</i>	Ondaatjee, Michael	East vs. West; man vs. nature; war and its effects; memory and the past; family; justice
<i>House of Sand and Fog</i>	Dubois, Andre	appearances and realities; vengeance; secrets; the meaning of home; mysteriousness of human nature
<i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	Desai, Kiran	class system; living in two worlds; loss; loneliness; racism; inevitability of change; concept of home; "greener pastures"
<i>The Namesake</i>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	identity; family; "the other"; forgiveness; home; society and class; contrasting regions: India; United States, Europe; challenges of immigration and assimilation
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Steinbeck, John	nature of dreams; loneliness; powerlessness; companionship; isolation; innocence; justice; prejudice; man and the natural world

**Books with Themes Similar to *The Kite Runner***

Title	Author	Themes
<i>In the Country of Men</i>	Matar, Hisham	betrayal; suppression; gender roles; family relationships; divided loyalties; responsibility



## Books with Themes Similar to *Macbeth*

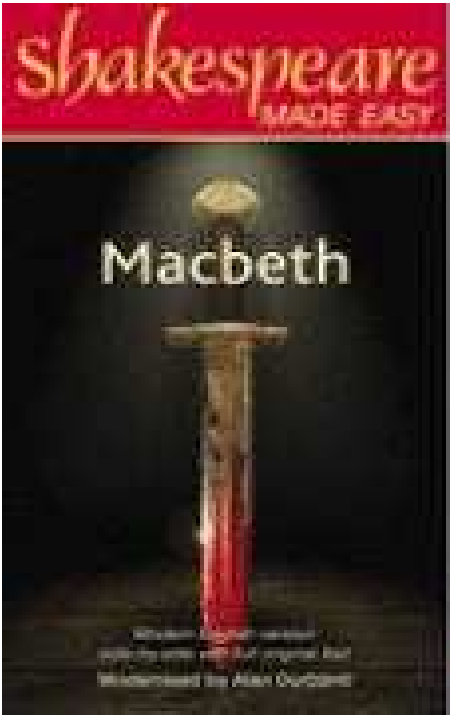
Title	Author	Themes
<i>Moby Dick</i>	Melville, Herman	revenge; man vs. natural world; fate and free will; religion; identity; sexuality; madness; friendship; duty
<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i>	Highsmith, Patricia	isolation; identity; sexuality; good vs. evil; class issues
<i>The Sound and the Fury</i>	Faulkner, William	family; innocence; sin; guilt and blame; memory and the past; sexuality
<i>Oedipus Rex</i>	Sophocles	fate and free will; wisdom and knowledge; memory and the past; power; determination
<i>Great Expectations</i>	Dickens, Charles	ambition; social class; guilt and innocence; friendship
<i>All the King's Men</i>	Warren, Robert Penn	politics; ambition; memory and the past; visions of America; race; corruption; truth
<i>Faust</i>	Goethe, Johann von	good vs. evil; salvation through striving; individual action; sin, redemption, damnation; power as a corruption influence; divided nature of man; supernatural and magic
<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Conrad, Joseph	hypocrisy of imperialism; madness; absurdity of evil; good vs. evil; power; man and the natural world; identity; race

## Books with Themes Similar to *Macbeth*

Title	Author	Themes
<i>The Tell-tale Heart</i>	Poe, Edgar Allan	love and hate; self vs. alter ego; power of the dead over the living; versions of reality; time; cunning and cleverness
<i>The Black Cat</i>	Poe, Edgar Allan	reason vs. the irrational; human being vs. animal; self-knowledge vs. self-deception; sanity versus madness; love vs. hate; good vs. evil; the power of obsession and guilt; and the sources or motives of crime.
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	Shakespeare, William	fate vs. free will; public self vs. private self; inflexibility vs. compromise; rhetoric and power; pride; manipulation; friendship
<i>Richard III</i>	Shakespeare, William	war; fate and free will; manipulation; time; justice; power; betrayal; man and the natural world; family; gender; connection between ruler and state; allure of evil
<i>House of Cards</i>	Dobbs, Michael	power; ambition; good vs. evil; politics; violence; manipulation
<i>The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz</i>	Richler, Mordecai	ambition; price of success; greed; morality; anti-Semitism; alienation; corruption; coming of age
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	Salinger, J. D.	coming of age; innocence; death; sexual confusion; alienation; phoniness of the adult world; lying and deception; madness

# Books with Themes Similar to *Macbeth*

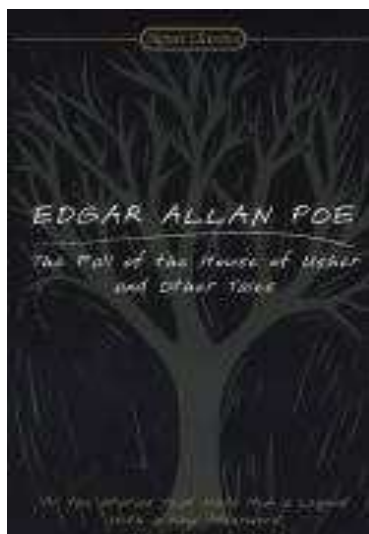
Title	Author	Themes
<i>The Casual Vacancy</i>	Rowling, J. K.	interconnectedness; class; politics; social issues; ambition; lies and deceit
<i>Animal Farm</i>	Orwell, George	power, leadership, and corruption; control over the intellectually inferior; rules and order; lies and deceit; cunning and cleverness' pride; corruption of socialist ideals in the Soviet Union; social tendency towards class stratification



<b>Books with Themes Similar to <i>Short Horror/Mystery Fiction Collection</i> :</b> <b>"The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "Dracula's Guest,"</b> <b>"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Themes</b>
<i>And Then There Were None</i>	Christie, Agatha	administration of justice; guilt and blame; class distinctions' isolation; lies and deceit; memory and the past
<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Doyle, Arthur Conan	cunning and cleverness; justice and judgment; lies and deceit; isolation; guilt and blame; naturalism and the supernatural; classism and hierarchy
<i>Rebecca</i>	du Maurier, Daphne	cunning and cleverness; justice and judgment; lies and deceit; isolation; guilt and blame; gender; love; marriage; society and class
<i>Sanctuary</i>	Faulkner, William	passing of traditions; ,moral disintegration; social division; violence
<i>Gone Girl</i>	Flynn, Gillian	lies and deceit; manipulation; revenge; trust; control; versions of reality; marriage
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Hawkins, Paula	memory and the past; guilt and blame; versions of reality; lies and deceit; betrayal; isolation
<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i>	Irving, Washington	supernatural; greed and gluttony; man vs. the natural world; warfare; truth; appearances; "the other"
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	James, Henry	supernatural; innocence; good vs. evil; appearances; repression; society and class; wisdom and knowledge as a questionable benefit; corruption; destructiveness of heroism
<i>The Dinner</i>	Koch, Herman	nature vs. nurture; family relationships; versions of the truth; lies and deceit

**Books with Themes Similar to *Short Horror/Mystery Fiction Collection* :**  
**"The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "Dracula's Guest,"**  
**"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"**

Title	Author	Themes
<i>The Neckalce</i>	Maupassant, Guy de	deceptiveness of appearances; danger of martyrdom; perceived power of objects; pride
<i>The Member of the Wedding</i>	McCullers, Carson	the rules of life that separate people from one another; isolation; loss of innocence; appearances; passage of time; identity and self; coming of age
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find"	O'Connor, Flannery	good vs. evil; manipulation; family; society and class; unlikely recipients of grace; loss of innocence; sin
<i>The Gold Bug</i>	Poe, Edgar Allan	power of reason; happenstance; judging on appearances; loyalty; greed; superstition
<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>	Stevenson, Robert Louis	duality of human nature; good vs. evil; repression; lies and deceit; friendship; appearances; science and religion; curiosity; violence
<i>Too Many Cooks and Champagne for One</i>	Stout, Rex	moral and social position in society; deception
"The Canterville Ghost"	Wilde, Oscar	culture clash - American vs. British; retribution; supernatural; satire of traditional culture; significance of life and death





## Supporting Material for COURAGE and COWARDICE

Call Number	Title	Author	Content
321 TAM	<i>Monarchy</i>	Tames, Richard	Monarchy or republic; sacred kingship; war and peace; Ruling - right and wrong; Kings under control; Kings in control
741.5 SUP	<i>Supervillains and philosophy: Sometimes Evil Is Its Own Reward</i>		Explores the nature of supervillainy; examines the boundaries of good and evil
791.43 POR	<i>Sherlock Holmes for the 21st Century</i>		Discussions of the detective as hero and antihero, tech savvy and scientifically attached; compares modern interpretations
791.45 BRE	<i>Breaking Bad And Philosophy : Badder Living Through Chemistry</i>		Can a person be transformed as the result of a few key life choices? Does everyone have the potential to be a ruthless criminal? How will we respond to the knowledge that we will be dead in six months? Is human life subject to laws as remorseless as chemical equations? When does injustice validate brutal retaliation?
809 COM	<i>Coming of Age *</i>		This volume presents a variety of essays on the perennial theme. Rounding out the volume are a list of literary works not mentioned in the book that concern the theme of coming of age and as well as a bibliography of critical sources for readers seeking to study this timeless theme in greater depth.
809 GEN	<i>Gender, Sex, and Sexuality *</i>		This title asks questions like: What does it mean to be a "proper" man or woman? What if one cannot be properly called either? Should one wield one's sexual power politically? What is the relation between law, divine or secular, and sexuality? Each essay also includes a Bibliography and Additional Reading section for further research.
809 HER	<i>The Hero's Quest *</i>		Addresses the theme of the hero's quest in literature; explores historical and cultural contexts. Works discussed include The Odyssey, The Aeneid, The Inferno, Gulliver's Travels, Moby Dick, His Dark Materials, and Heart of Darkness.

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Call Number	Title	Author	Content
809 TEC	<i>Technology and Humanity *</i>		From the automata of the ancients to humanity's fascination with time travel, robotics, and space, to cyberpunk and Japanese anime, the volume explores the myriad ways technology has flavored the world's literature and film.
809 VIO	<i>Violence in Literature *</i>		This title is broken up into three sections: Critical Contexts, Critical Readings, and a resource appendix. The first touches upon the foundations of violence in ancient Greek literature, the representation of violence, violence in Things Fall Apart, and American literature dealing with war. The second section, Critical Readings, delves into essays on individual works. The essays review past and current criticism of works that include violence around the world.
813 EDE	<i>Henry James: A Collection of Critical Essays</i>	Edel, Leon	Criticism and interpretation of the author's works.
813 FRE	<i>John Steinbeck's Fiction Revisited</i>	French, Warren G.	Criticism and interpretation of the author's works, including bibliographic references.
813 LEV	<i>The Novels of John Steinbeck: A Critical Study</i>	Levant, Howard	Criticism and interpretation of the author's works, including bibliographic references.
813 REA	<i>Readings on The Catcher in the Rye</i>		Critical essays cover major issues and themes as well as evaluate Holden Caulfield as a narrator.
813.3 POE	<i>The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Writings: Poems, Tales, Essays, and Reviews</i>		This selection of Poe's critical writings, short fiction and poetry demonstrates his intense interest in aesthetic issues, and the astonishing power and imagination with which he probed the darkest corners of the human mind. This edition includes a new chronology and suggestions for further reading.
813.5 FRE	<i>John Steinbeck</i>	French, Warren G.	Criticism and interpretation of the author's works, including bibliographic references.
813.51 GRU	<i>Salinger: A Critical and Personal Portrait</i>	Grunwald, Henry A.	Criticism and interpretation of the author's works, including bibliographic references.

## Supporting Material for COURAGE and COWARDICE

Call Number	Title	Author	Content
820.9 GOO	<i>Good and Evil *</i>		Addresses the theme of good and evil in literature; explores historical and cultural contexts. Works discussed include <i>King Lear</i> ; <i>Paradise Lost</i> ; <i>Maus</i> ; <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> ; <i>Jane Eyre</i> ; <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> ; <i>The Farming of Bones</i> ; <i>Train to Pakistan</i> ; <i>Harry Potter</i> and <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> .
822.3 HOL	<i>The Dramas of Love, Life &amp; Death in Shakespeare</i>	Holden, Anthony	Criticism and interpretation of the author's tragedies, including bibliographic references.
822.309 RIB	<i>The English History Play in the Age of Shakespeare</i>	Ribner, Irving	Includes a discussion of Shakespeare's history plays.
822.33 BRA	<i>Shakespearean Tragedy</i>	Bradley, A. C.	Lectures on Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth.
822.33 FRI	<i>Understanding Shakespeare: Macbeth</i>	Frieman, Ruth	The complete play, supplied with a running commentary on the meaning of words, situations and allusions.
822.33 HAR	<i>Shakespeare: The Tragedies</i>	Harbage, Alfred	A collection of critical essays
822.33 HON	<i>Shakespeare: Seven Tragedies</i>	Honigmann, E. A. J.	The dramatist's manipulation and response. Includes bibliographic references and index.
822.33 MUI	<i>Aspects of Macbeth</i>	Muir, Kenneth	Articles reprinted from Shakespeare Survey.
822.33 POR	<i>The Heroic Image in Five Shakespearean Tragedies</i>	Proser, Matthew N.	A discussion of the heroic image as it pertains to five main figures in Shakespeare's tragedies.
822.33 RAC	<i>Shakespeare's Tragedies</i>	Rackin, Phyllis	An analysis of Shakespeare's tragedies.
822.33 RUB	<i>The Everything Shakespeare Book</i>	Rubie, Peter	A comprehensive guide to understanding the comedies, tragedies, and sonnets of the Bard.
822.33 TIL	<i>Shakespeare's History Plays</i>	Tillyard, Eustace M. W.	Criticism and interpretation of Shakespeare's history plays.
822.33 TWE	<i>Twentieth Century Interpretations of Macbeth</i>		A collection of critical essays, each examining a different facet of the play.

## Supporting Material for COURAGE and COWARDICE

Call Number	Title	Author	Content
822.33 TYR	<i>Tyranny in William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar</i>		Julius Caesar is explored through the lens of a social issue, tyranny. Contains biographical and critical information about the author; secondary excerpts offering both historical and contemporary views of the highlighted social issue.
822.33 WIL	<i>On the Design of Shakespearian Tragedy</i>	Wilson, Harold Sowerby	Compares Shakespeare's tragedies to find connections between them.
822.33 WIL	<i>William Shakespeare's Macbeth</i>		A study guide with contemporary literary views; includes bibliography and index.
882 NOR	<i>Greek Tragedy</i>	Norwood, Gilbert	History and criticism.
921 POE	<i>Poe, a Life Cut Short</i>	Ackroyd, Peter	A look at the influences on Poe's writing. Poe has been claimed as the forerunner of modern fantasy, and credited with the invention of psychological dramas (long before Freud), science fiction (before H.G. Wells and Jules Verne) and the detective story (before Arthur Conan Doyle).
921 POE	<i>Mystery and Terror: The Story of Edgar Allan Poe</i>	Schoell, William	An account of Poe's complex life.
921 STE	<i>John Steinbeck</i>	O'Connor, Richard	A biography of the author.
941.1 AIT	<i>Macbeth: Man and Myth</i>	Aitchinson, Nick	Traces the origins of the myths surrounding the king before culminating in the dramatic figure immortalized by Shakespeare. The real Macbeth is disentangled from the mythical creation.

\*Also available through [Salem Press Online](#) on the Library website.

