**Themes within *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass***

**Themes are the central, recurring subjects of a novel.** As characters grapple with circumstances such as racism, class, or unrequited love, profound questions will arise in the reader’s mind about human life, social pressures, and societal expectations. Classic themes include “the relationship between one’s personal moral code and larger political justice” and “intellectual freedom versus censorship.”

**Theme is a big idea captured in the novel**

Below we will add to this chart by pointing to specific examples within the narrative to support each theme identified.

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| Knowledge is the path to freedom (Ch. 6, 7) |  |  |  |
| p. 34, p.1 –“If you teach that slave to read, there will be no keeping him.” |  |  |  |