**Brainstorming Activity:**

Look at the list of possible universal themes. Place a check by any universal theme you could support with both *Secondhand Lions* and *Old Man and the Sea.*

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| Love conquers all | Good overcomes evil |
| Friendship | Coming of age |
| Man's inhumanity to man | Dilemma of war |
| Death | Facing one's mortality |
| Thirst for power | The power of the powerless |
| Racism | Tolerance |
| Jealousy | Guilt/sin/crimes |
| Nature | Determination / Pride |
| Garden of Eden | Choosing beauty over wisdom |
| Procrastination | Naivety and misjudgment |
| Personal responsibility | The quest - hero goes out to find something  and finds something MORE |
| Endurance/ Struggle | Redemption |
| Cultural differences | Diversity |
| Mentorship | Parental Love |
| Perseverance | Loyalty |
| Respect of self | Integrity - |
| Responsibility | Courage |
| Creativity | Deceit |
| Loss of innocence | Alienation of self for the purpose of self  protection |
| Confrontation of fear | Change |
| Adversity | Aging |