**Literary Analysis**

**Universal Theme**

The theme of a literary work is its central idea or message about life or human nature. A **universal theme** is a message about life that is expressed regularly in many different cultures and time periods. Examples of universal themes include the importance of honesty, the power of love, and the danger of selfishness.

Look for a **universal theme** in a literary work by focusing on the story’s main character, conflicts the character faces, changes he or she undergoes, and the effects of these changes. You can use a graphic organizer like the one shown below to help you determine the **universal theme**.

Directions: Fill in the boxes with details from the text. Make sure you write the paragraph number where you found the information. What **universal theme** do the details of the story lead to?