

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

***Sunset Song* : Themes**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<b>THEMES</b>	<b>VEHICLES</b>
<b>Family</b>	Joy of natural intimacy in love; Importance of honesty & trust;  Naturalness of family unit	Chris & Ewan's romance; Chris & Ewan's relationship/ Ewan's tragedy; Chris & Ewan's marital bliss
<b>Society</b>	Importance of mutual cooperation	Vibrant Kinraddie community pre-WW1/ JG funeral/ Chris's wedding/fire at Peesie's Knapp/ threshing at Chae's
<b>Morality</b>	Waste & destruction of war; Importance of natural human values ('the kindness of friends...')	Crofters' deaths/ Ewan's tragedy; Crofters' normal behaviour/ sermon in Epilude
<b>Politics</b>	Danger of political apathy;  Immorality of capitalist system	Crofters' demise  Sermon in Epilude/ Ellison & Gordon's social advancement

<b>Education</b>	Redundancy of formal education system; Social & political importance of democratic education	Chris's 'English' persona  Chae & Sarah Strachan's attitude (p.54)
<b>Language</b>	The beauty & expressiveness of Scots The contemporary redundancy of Scots	Long Rob's arguments with Gordon Gordon's arguments with Long Rob
<b>Culture</b>	Social relevance of Scottish literature, music, song, dance, customs, traditions  Obsolescence of native Scottish traditions	Prelude reference to Scottish novels/ Chris's pride in her heritage/ Chris's wedding/ Long Rob's songs/ 'The Flowers of the Forest' lament in Epilude young folk narrator in Epilude/ minister's sermon
<b>History</b>	Comparative unimportance of traditional aristocratic history Comparative importance of people's history	Prelude parody  The Song/ Prelude/ Epilude/ closing sermon
<b>Religion</b>	Corrupting effect of	John Guthrie's

	<p>Calvinist religion</p> <p>Hypocrisy of ministry &amp; formal religious practice</p>	<p>characterisation</p> <p>Rev Stuart Gibbon's characterisation/ congregation's self-righteousness</p>
<b>Philosophy</b>	<p>Importance of free-thinking</p> <p>Primacy of the natural world</p>	<p>Independent thinking of Chris/ Long Rob/ Chae (?)</p> <p>Chris's earth love</p>