

Reading Response: Motif

Notes:

Motif is a term for an **idea** or **theme** in literature that is often **repeated**. In the novel, *The House of the Scorpion*, one motif is self-discovery.

The author, **Nancy Farmer**, creates strong emotions through the theme of self-discovery and arouses certain feelings in the minds of her characters and her readers.

Instructions:

In the novel, *The House of the Scorpion*, find **two** instances where self-discovery becomes a **motif** in the novel. Write your answer in the manner illustrated below. Include a **direct** quote from the novel. Your response should be **8-10 sentences long**.

Example Response:

Matteo Alacran, El Patron, is one-hundred and forty-two years old. He keeps himself alive by replacing his own body parts, when they fail, with parts from his clones. One such clone is Matt. Matt has lived his first six years with one of El Patron's servant's, Celia. One day, when left alone, Matt sees children outside the window of his house. After breaking a window to get out and join the children, Matt cuts himself in the process and is taken to El Patron's mansion for first aid. There, Matt begins a journey of self-discovery. El Patron allows him to stay at the mansion and he even assigns a body guard, Tam Lin, to take care of Matt. But the more Matt learns about who he is, the more he misses Celia and his old life:

Yet in the midst of his sorrow, Matt found a glimmer of hope. Someone, out of all the people who thought he was no better than a dog, believed he could be something more.

And I will be, Matt promised as he stared up at the blurry ceiling. (139)

Eventually, Matt discovers why El Patron allows him to live in his mansion when other clones are treated like animals. This changes everything.

