

SYMBOLISM



Symbolism occurs when a simple thing in a book or movie represents, or stands for, a big idea. When that happens, the simple thing is a **symbol** for the big idea.

Examples:
(there are
lots more)

A simple thing...	...can mean a big idea:
brick walls, locked gates	
autumn leaves	
storms, dark clouds	
darkness, nighttime	
butterflies	

How Does Symbolism Compare to Metaphor?

Metaphor:

- a comparison between two things without using the words “like” or “as”
- often comparing an abstract idea to a concrete object.

Example: _____.

- Metaphor is related to symbolism because metaphor uses symbols.
- Metaphor also helps you better understand a _____, _____, or _____.

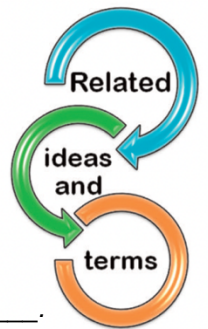
Example: _____.

The use of metaphor in the above example helps the reader to better understand the woman’s individual experience with her mental health.

- In comparison, **symbolism** illustrates the big ideas under the surface of a story. The use of symbolism helps the reader understand abstract and complex concepts that all people can relate to or may experience in life, such as _____

Example: *As the final gunshots faded, and the battlefield fell silent, a single white dove appeared.*

In the above example, the single white dove is a symbol of _____



Let's Do Some Practice!

If you consider each of the images below as symbols, what big ideas or concepts could they represent?



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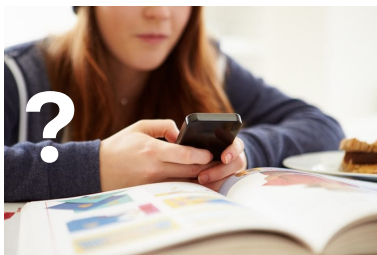
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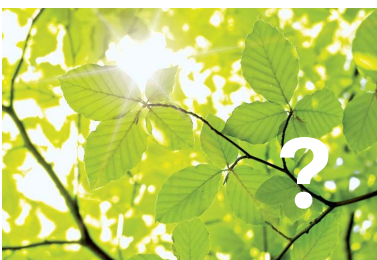
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