

Symbolism is when something is used to **represent an idea**.

- Authors can use **objects**, **characters**, **colors**, or **natural images**.

Burnt Norton By T.S. Eliot

Footfalls echo in the memory
Down the passage which we did not take
Towards the **door** we never opened
Into the rose-garden.

The author uses a **door** as a *symbol* for opportunities not taken or choices not made. **Doors** are symbols for entrances.

 CFU

In which sentence is **bridge** used as a symbol of a connection to different situations?

Explain

- A** The bridge, much like the grand bridges that span vast rivers, unites people from diverse backgrounds.
- B** Many people cross the Golden Gate Bridge every day.

- 1 Read the text and the given symbol.
- 2 Determine the meaning of the symbol. (circle)
- 3 Identify reasons that support the meaning of the symbol. (underline)
- 4 Analyze the impact of the symbol on meaning. (write)

Dreams

by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
 For if dreams die
 Life is a broken-winged bird
 That cannot fly.
 Hold fast to dreams
 For when dreams go
 Life is a barren field⁴
 Frozen with snow.

Symbol = dreams

1. In the poem, **dreams** symbolize:
 - A what happens when you sleep
 - B injured birds
 - C snowy fields
 - D hope for the future

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Excerpt from Acquainted with The Night by Robert Frost

I have been one acquainted₆ with the night.
 I have walked out in rain—and back in rain.
 I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of
 feet
 When far away an interrupted cry
 Came over houses from another street,

But not to call me back or say goodbye;
 And further still at an unearthly height,
 One luminary clock against the sky

Symbol = night

3. In the poem, **night** symbolize:
 - A peaceful night walks
 - B time of the day
 - C feeling of isolation₇
 - D night sounds

4. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Skill Closure

- 1 Read the text and the given symbol.
- 2 Determine the meaning of the symbol. (circle)
- 3 Identify reasons that support the meaning of the symbol. (underline)
- 4 Analyze the impact of the symbol on meaning. (write)

The Road Goes Ever On and On

From *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Road goes ever on and on
 Out from the door where it began.
 Now far ahead the Road has gone,
 Let others follow it who can!
 Let them a journey new begin,
 But I at last with weary feet
 Will turn towards the lighted inn,
 My evening-rest and sleep to meet.

Symbol = a road

1. In the poem, a road symbolizes:

- A a path to walk on
- B a journey
- C a character's experiences in life
- D a character's friends and family

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Concept Closure

Write an explanation.

Juan gave a red valentine to Sally and said it was a symbol of freedom. Do you agree? Explain.



Summary Closure

What did you learn today about analyzing the impact of symbolism on meaning?

Word Bank

- symbol
- represent
- idea
- objects
- characters
- colors
- nature

Read the text and given symbol. Circle the meaning of the symbol. Underline reasons that support the symbol. Analyze its impact on meaning.

Solomon Grundy

By Shel Silverstein

Solomon Grundy,
Born on Monday,
Christened on Tuesday,
Married on Wednesday,
Took ill on Thursday,
Worse on Friday, Died on Saturday,
Buried on Sunday, This is the end
Of Solomon Grundy.

Symbol = a week

1. In the poem, a week symbolizes:

- A the life of Solomon Grundy
- B a week on the calendar
- C last week
- D how Solomon Grundy feels

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Ah Sunflower

By William Blake

Ah Sunflower, weary of time,
Who countest the steps of the sun;
Seeking after that sweet golden clime
Where the traveler's journey is done;

Where the Youth pined away with desire,
And the pale maiden shrouded₂ in snow,
Arise from their graves, and aspire
Where my Sunflower wishes to go!

Symbol = sunflower

1. In the poem, a sunflower symbolizes:

- A the beauty of a flower
- B the journey of a traveler
- C a person's desire to go to a better place
- D the sun moving through the sky

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Read the text and given symbol. Circle the meaning of the symbol. Underline reasons that support the symbol. Analyze its impact on meaning.

Uphill By Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long
day?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers¹ at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

Symbol = uphill

1. In the poem, uphill symbolizes:

- A the end of a long journey
- B the end of life's journey or death
- C getting lost while on a journey
- D travelling while on vacation

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

When Sunlight Comes by Author Unknown

The starlight will not guide your steps
A map of midnight black
The moonlight shows but foolish dreams
A ghostly silver track
But in the morning sunlight comes
Revealing₁ all once more
And every hidden path is there
And all of life's in store

Symbol = light

3. In the poem, light symbolizes:

- A light helps you see
- B darkness makes it hard to see
- C the type of guidance or map we follow
- D light makes it hard to see

4. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Read the text and given symbol.
Interpret and analyze its impact on meaning.

Excerpt **Ozymandias**
by Percy Bysshe Shelley

And on the pedestal₁, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck₂, boundless and
bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Symbol = the statue of Ozymandias

1. In the poem, the statue of Ozymandias symbolizes:

- A a great king
- B a colossal statue
- C the fleeting nature of success
- D a statue in the desert

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Read the sentence.

Identify the symbol. (justify)

hero
chains

mirrors
ladders

mentor
trickster

Objects

5. _____ symbolize oppression because

.

6. _____ symbolize truth because

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7. _____ symbolize progress

Characters

8. The _____ symbolizes courage because

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9. The _____ symbolizes wisdom and guidance because

.

10. The _____ symbolizes deceit and cunning because

Read the text and given symbol. Interpret and analyze its impact on meaning.

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

by Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
 Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
 Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
 Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
 Because their words had forked no lightning they
 Do not go gentle into that good night.
 Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright -
 Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
 Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
 Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
 And learn, too late, they grieved, it on its way,
 Do not go gentle into that good night.
 Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
 Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
 Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
 And you, my father, there on the sad height,
 Curse, bless me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
 Do not go gentle into that good night.
 Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Symbol = light and night

1. In the poem, light and night symbolize:

- A living life and dying
- B gentleness and warmth
- C people
- D day and night

2. Analyze how and why the author used this symbol.

Read the sentence.

Identify the symbol. (justify)

white
water

tree
red

mountain
green

colors

5. _____ symbolizes love because

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6. _____ symbolizes nature because

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7. _____ symbolizes purity because

Natural Images

8. The _____ symbolizes cleansing because

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9. The _____ symbolizes obstacles because

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10. The _____ symbolizes growth because