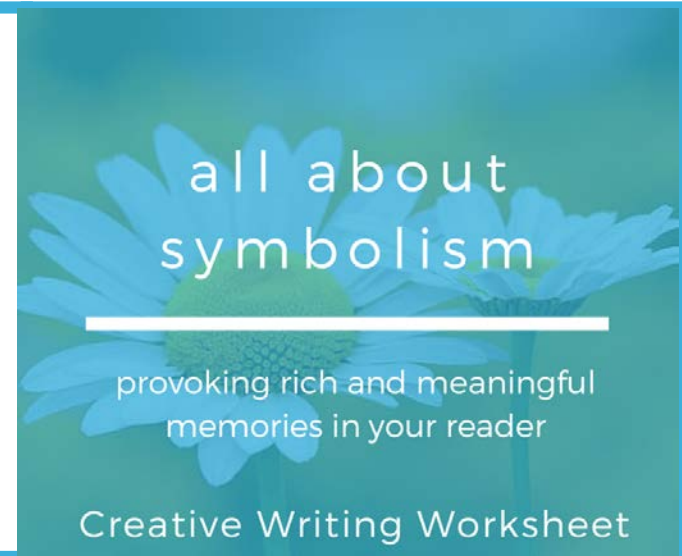


All About Symbolism

- Information, Question and
Answer Card



COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Reproduction and or duplication on websites, creation of digital or online quizzes or tests, publication on intranets, and or use of this publication for commercial gain is strictly prohibited.

Use of this publication is restricted to the purchaser and his or her students. This publication and its contents are non-transferrable between teachers.

All materials in our publications, such as graphics, text, and logos are the property of Life-changing Learning and are protected by Australian and international copyright laws.

Learner Guide

The **Symbolism** Information, Question and Answer card set is designed to illustrate how symbolism is the most powerful form of meaning making within literature, or in any realm of life. It reveals most of all, how symbols are imbued with rich meaning that evoke strong and powerful emotions in readers.

How to use this Creative Writing Worksheet

The cards are sequenced to develop and extend knowledge - scaffolding the learner's knowledge and skill level from Beginner level (Year 7) to Advanced (Year 12 and beyond).

The first set of questions on the Question Card are intended for learners new to the concept, strategy or process, and the final set of questions at the bottom-half of each Question Card are designed for more advanced learners.

The Cards are also fully aligned to the **Australian Curriculum**: English strand:

- **Language** – Language variation and Change, Text Structure and Organisation, Expressing and Developing Ideas
- **Literature** – Examining Literature, Creating Literature
- **Literacy** – Texts in Contexts, Interpreting, analysing and evaluating, Creating Texts

The following provides the **teaching process** that you can use when working with students:

1. **Introduce the concept, strategy or process** to the learner
2. **Read the Information Card** and then **discuss the concept, strategy or process** with the learner
3. **Answer questions** on the Question Card, choosing to complete either the whole card, or only the first series of questions, depending on the learners ability
4. **Compare learner answers** with the Answer Card

Symbolism

What is it?



"In the spring I asked the daisies
If his words were true,
And the clever, clear-eyed daisies
Always knew."

In Sara Teasdale's "Wild Asters" spring and daisies symbolise youth. Brown fields and autumn symbolise advancing age and the approach of winter (death).

Symbolism refers to when an **object, item, word, symbol** has a **deeper meaning** most often symbolising or representing something else (i.e. **ideas** or **qualities**). For example, the use of a dove in literature can symbolise the notion of peace or something else (e.g. *love* or *purity*).

Symbols are **even more powerful than words** because they represent **rich meanings**, ideas, emotions and events throughout history and within peoples' lives. They can also be **universal**, recognised by all cultures, or **local**, only recognisable to people within a particular group (i.e. the rose signifies love in Western culture)

Examples of symbols and their *possible* meanings within Western culture:

| Symbol | Meaning | Symbol | Meaning |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>broken heart</i> | emotional pain | <i>donkey</i> | obstinate |
| <i>apple</i> | temptation | <i>fox</i> | unreliable |
| <i>pitchfork</i> | hard work | <i>rat</i> | thief |
| <i>rainbow</i> | hope | <i>scale</i> | justice |
| <i>horse</i> | reliability | <i>eagle</i> | freedom |
| <i>Mars</i> | aggression, war | <i>Iron/steel</i> | strength, invulnerability |
| <i>White</i> | innocence/purity | <i>Black</i> | evil/death |
| <i>Ring (band of gold)</i> | faithfulness/fidelity | <i>Moon</i> | loneliness, unrequited love |

Symbolism

question card

Now that you have read the information card on **Symbolism**, it is time to practice what you have learnt.

- 1 Copy the following table and write each **symbol's** intended meaning.

| Symbol | Meaning | Symbol | Meaning |
|----------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| <i>Snake</i> | | <i>Chain</i> | |
| <i>Broken mirror</i> | | <i>Forest</i> | |
| <i>Light</i> | | <i>Sunflower</i> | |

- 2 Read the following poem and write an interpretation of each of the following **symbols**: *Rose*; *worm*; *storm*; *night* and *bed*.

"The sick rose"
O Rose, thou art sick!
The Invisible worm
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

Symbolism answer card

Now that you have completed the question card on Symbolism, it is now time to correct your answers.

1 Answers

| Symbol | Meaning | Symbol | Meaning |
|---------------|---|-----------|---|
| Snake | <i>Evil</i> or <i>sneaky</i> | Chain | <i>Coming together</i> or <i>imprisonment</i> |
| Broken mirror | <i>Unhappy union</i> or <i>separation</i> | Forest | <i>Mystery</i> or <i>challenge</i> |
| Light | <i>Goodness</i> or <i>hope</i> | Sunflower | <i>Life cycle</i> or <i>growth</i> |

2 Answers

- **Rose:** The rose is a symbol of perfection and the flower of Venus (Roman goddess of love). It also symbolises joy and peace. The rose is always seen as feminine and sometimes represents the female sexual organ.
- **Worm:** The worm symbolises death. It is connected with lowness, vileness and contempt. It is also a masculine force, sometimes seen to represent the male sexual organ.
- **Storm:** Storm represents chaos, confusion, fear, wildness, destruction and change. The storm can also be seen as blowing away the old and frail and providing new room to expand.
- **Night:** Night is a symbol of darkness, of things secret and hidden. It is also a symbol of evil.
- **Bed:** The bed symbolises sleep and the vulnerability and innocence of sleep. It can also represent intimacy.