

# Symbolism and Allegory



Q: What does it mean to define, recognize, and explain?

- See if you can explain what the following symbols mean:



A symbol is often an event, object, person or animal to which an extraordinary meaning or significance has been attached.





# Where do Symbols come from?

- Symbols can be inherited or invented.
- Ex. The Statue of Liberty came to symbolize freedom for people immigrating to the United States by way of Ellis Island.



# Importance:

## Why Create Symbols in literature?

- Symbols allow writers to suggest layers of meanings and possibilities that a simple literal statement could not convey as well.
- Symbols allow writers to convey an idea with layers of meaning without having to explain those layers in the text.
- A symbol is like a pebble cast into a pond: It sends out ever widening ripples.

# Concept Development:

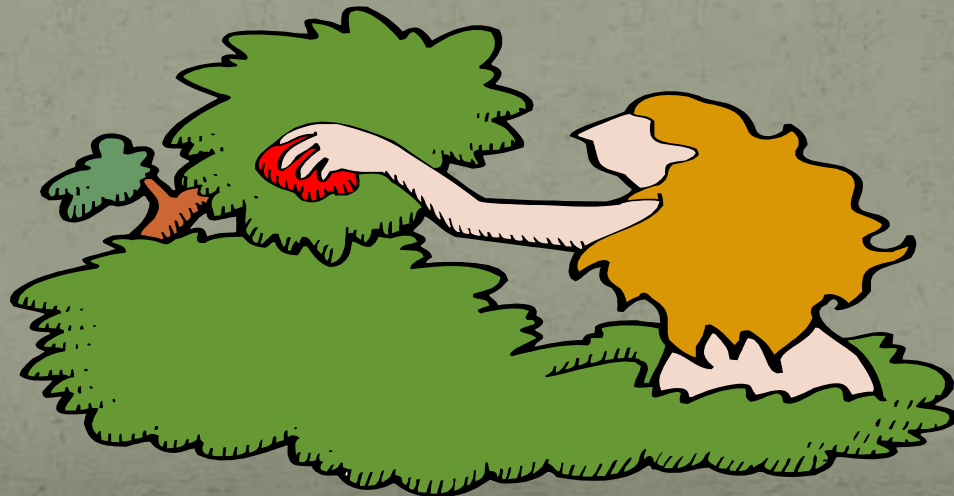
# Allegory

- An Allegory is a story in which characters, settings and actions stand for something beyond themselves.
- In some types of Allegories, the characters and setting represent **abstract** ideas of moral qualities.
- In other types, characters and situations stand for historical figures and events.



# Examples of Allegories

- An Allegory can be read on one level for its literal or straightforward meaning
- An allegory can be read for its symbolic, or allegorical meaning
- Allegories are often intended to teach a moral lesson or make a comment about goodness and depravity.



# Symbols and Allegory in past stories we have read...

- Isn't "The Conqueror Worm" an allegory?
- *The Crucible* could also be considered an allegory.



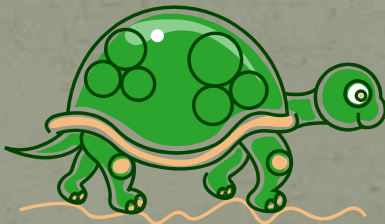
# Concept Development:

## Fable

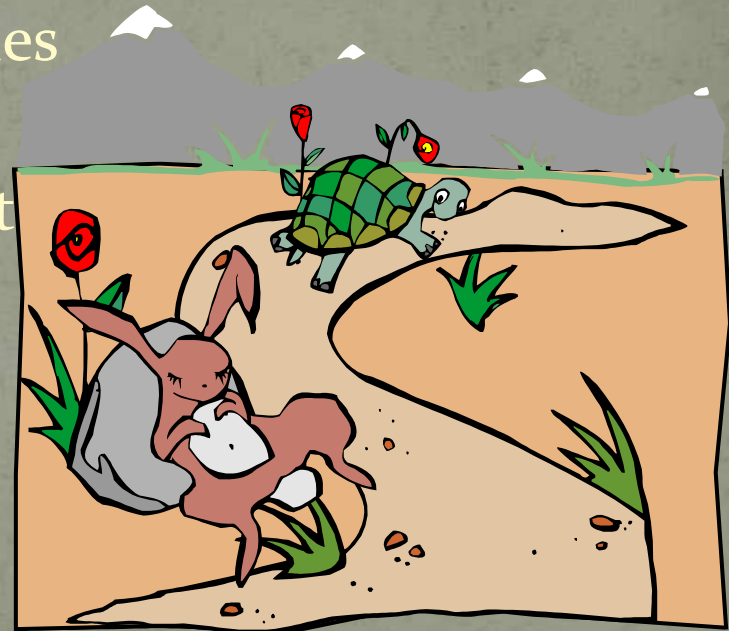
- Type of ALLEGORY, usually has animals
- Used to teach moral lessons to children
- Animals/characters represent
  - Virtues=good human qualities
  - Vices=bad human qualities
  - \*\*Fables teach lessons about
  - life\*\*



Represents arrogance



Represents Perseverance



# Concept Development:

## Fable

- Another example of a famous fable is the following from Aesop's Fables:
- The Hound Dog and the Rabbit
- One day, a hound dog was hunting for a rabbit and managed to find one. The hound chased the rabbit for a long time, but eventually, the rabbit escaped. When another dog made fun of the hound dog for allowing the rabbit to escape, the hound dog replied: "You do now see the difference between the rabbit and I; I am only running for my dinner, while he is running for his life."
- The lesson: Incentive will spur effort
- **Pair/Share: Can you name another fable?**

# Concept Development:

## Parable

- Type of ALLEGORY set in the real world
- Teaches a lesson about ethics or morality



Remember the Good Samaritan??

-Many stories in the Bible are parables



# Concept Development:

## Allegory/Parables

- Some famous parables and allegorical stories/movies/television programs are:
- Animal Farm
- The Wizard of Oz
- Avatar
- The Matrix
- Of Mice and Men

# Allegory continued...

- In a old English play called *Everyman*, the main character is named Everyman ( he stands for exactly what his name indicates.)
- One day Everyman is summoned by death to give an accounting of his life.
- Everyman asks his friends Fellowship, Beauty, Strength and Good Deeds to go with him to tell death that he has led a good life.
- Only Good Deeds stays with him until the end.



# Symbolism vs. Allegory

- A **symbol** can be a word, place, character or object that means something beyond what it is on a literal level.
- An **allegory** involves using many interconnected symbols or allegorical figures in such a way that nearly every element of the narrative has a meaning beyond the literal level, i.e., everything in the narrative is a symbol that relates to other symbols within the story.



# Closure:

## Symbolism and Allegory Review

- A symbol is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Symbols can be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Symbols represent \_\_\_\_\_.
- Name the four things that can be symbols.
- Symbols allow writers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- An allegory is \_\_\_\_\_ in which \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ stand for something beyond themselves.
- Name two types of Allegories.

# Independent Practice

- Think of a movie or book that utilizes a symbol (you cannot use an example from this powerpoint!)
  1. Name the movie/book
  2. Identify the symbol
  3. Identify the literal meaning of the symbol
  4. Identify the figurative (symbolic) meaning of the symbol
  5. Explain why the symbol was used