

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 3 Application: Symbolism Essay Rubric

How does the knowledge of symbols and literary symbolism affect your understanding of literature? Were you able to identify any symbols or symbolism in the novel? What meaning did you draw from the symbols you encountered in the reading? How does the use of symbolism contribute to understanding and depth of the novel?

In a well-organized essay, discuss the effectiveness of symbolism in literature and analyze four specific examples of symbolism in your selected novel. While you should focus the introductory paragraph on the definition and importance of symbolism as well as the novel you have selected, you should dedicate a brief paragraph to each of the four symbols in the novel. Please quote passages from the novel where you have identified the symbol and discuss the meaning of the symbol. Explain how or why the object is symbolic and explain the importance or significance to the novel. In other words, how does the symbol add meaning to the story? Does it foreshadow upcoming events, remind the reader of character flaws, or clarify the message or theme of the novel? How does the symbol add more depth to the story than would otherwise exist? Is the symbol effective or ineffective? Make sure to tie together all of your points in a succinct closing paragraph. As always, double check your composition for correct use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

When selecting the four symbols for analysis, you may choose from the list below and/or identify symbols that are not included on the list. The symbols may come from any of the readings from Topics One through Three.

Symbols in <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Symbols in <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janie's Hair or Head Rags• The Pear Tree• The Horizon• The Mule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• George and Lennie's Farm• Lennie's Puppy• Candy's Dog• Rabbits

Before you begin the assignment, review the Symbolism Essay Rubric to help you complete your assignment and understand how your work will be graded.

Once you have completed your Symbolism Essay, please submit your work to the dropbox.

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Symbolism Essay Rubric

As you complete your Symbolism Essay, please review the rubric below to help you complete your assignment and understand how your work will be graded.

	25 Points	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points
Content	The content is accurately stated from the text. Ample and accurate supportive details and analysis are provided.	The content is stated from the text. Details and supportive information are provided. Analysis is present.	The content contains misinterpreted statements. Details, supportive information, and analysis lack development.	The content contains limited information about symbols. Some details are provided; however, there is no analysis present.
Organization	The literary analysis is very organized and clear. The organization of the essay adheres to the standard essay format with effective use of transitions.	The literary analysis is organized and clear. The essay is organized and uses transitions.	The literary analysis lacks some organization and clarity. The use of transitions is limited.	There is no evidence of organization, and the literary analysis lacks transitions and clarity.
Thesis Statement	The thesis statement clearly reflects the prompt and reflects knowledge of the novel and symbolism.	The thesis statement clearly reflects the prompt and reflects some knowledge of the novel and symbolism.	The thesis statement attempts to address the prompt, but little knowledge of the novel and symbolism is demonstrated.	An attempt at a thesis statement is made.
Format	There are no formatting errors. The formatting of quoted and paraphrased information adheres to the proper formatting guidelines.	There are minor formatting errors. Overall, the analysis adheres to the formatting guidelines.	There are several formatting errors.	An attempt at formatting is made, but it does not follow the proper guidelines.

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Grammar and Spelling	The writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	The writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	The writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	The writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
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