

Module 8: Voices of Courage During Modernism

Topic 3 Content: Guide to Understanding Symbolism

Introduction

Guide to Understanding Symbolism

Seasons

Weather

Animals and Plants


Settings

Actions and Events

Objects

Introduction

Click the checkboxes from the clipboard to examine a list of common literary symbols.



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Seasons

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is presented as a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a detailed list on the right. The checklist includes "Seasons" (checked), "Weather", "Animals and Plants", "Settings", "Actions and Events", and "Objects". An arrow points from the "Seasons" item in the checklist to a box on the right containing the following list:

Seasons

1. **Spring** - birth; new beginning
2. **Summer** - maturity; knowledge
3. **Autumn** - growing old, nearing death; decline
4. **Winter** - death; stagnation

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Weather

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is presented as a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a detailed list on the right. The checklist on the clipboard includes: Seasons (checked), Weather (checked), Animals and Plants (unchecked), Settings (unchecked), Actions and Events (unchecked), and Objects (unchecked). An arrow points from the "Weather" item on the clipboard to the right-hand list. The right-hand list is titled "Weather" and contains six numbered items: 1. Wind and storms - violent human emotions; confusion and chaos; 2. Fog/mist - isolation; cloudy judgment or unclear thinking; searching; 3. Rain - sadness or despair; 4. Snow - obscurity or smothering influence; a desire to hide or a futile search; 5. Moon - change; feminine symbol; 6. Sun - source of light and life; masculine symbol.

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Animals and Plants

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is set within a grey border. On the left, a clipboard with a silver clip at the top holds a white sheet of paper with a checklist. The checklist items are: "Seasons" (checked), "Weather" (checked), "Animals and Plants" (checked), "Settings" (unchecked), "Actions and Events" (unchecked), and "Objects" (unchecked). A white arrow points from the "Animals and Plants" item to a list on the right. The list is titled "Animals and Plants" and contains nine items, each with a number and a symbol followed by its symbolic meaning.

Animals and Plants

1. **Dove** - peace; purity
2. **Fox** - cleverness
3. **Lion** - power; majesty
4. **Peacock** - pride; vanity
5. **Snake/serpent** - temptation; evil
6. **Raven** - death or destruction; prophetic
7. **Weeds** - evil; wildness
8. **Flowers** - (in bloom) beauty, youth; (wilting) death
9. **Trees** - wisdom; strength

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Settings

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is presented as a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a list of settings with their meanings on the right. The checklist includes: Seasons (checked), Weather (checked), Animals and Plants (checked), Settings (checked, with an arrow pointing to the right), Actions and Events (unchecked), and Objects (unchecked). The list of settings includes: 1. Forest - a place of evil or mystery; 2. Garden - paradise or haven; 3. Town - a place of rules and expected behavior; 4. Cavern/cave - maternal womb; 5. Mountain - stability and safety; place where heaven and earth meet; 6. East - land of birth; associated with renewal and youth; 7. North - coldness; alienation; hostility; 8. South - the hand of fire; warmth and comfort; 9. West - old age.

Guide to Understanding Symbolism

Settings

- Seasons
- Weather
- Animals and Plants
- Settings
- Actions and Events
- Objects

1. **Forest** - a place of evil or mystery
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Actions and Events

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is enclosed in a grey border. On the left, a clipboard with a silver clip at the top holds a white sheet of paper. The paper has a checklist with six items, each with a checkbox. The first five items are checked with a blue checkmark, and the last one is not. A white arrow points from the "Actions and Events" item on the clipboard to a text box on the right. The text box is titled "Actions and Events" and contains three numbered items.

Guide to Understanding Symbolism

- Seasons
- Weather
- Animals and Plants
- Settings
- Actions and Events
- Objects

Actions and Events

1. **Journey** - often a metaphor for life; may represent a quest for truth, peace, or immortality
2. **Washing of hands or body** - guilt; an attempt to cleanse or purify
3. **Digging** - discovery or an attempt to prevent discovery

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Objects

The graphic is titled "Guide to Understanding Symbolism" and is presented as a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a list of symbolic objects on the right. The clipboard has a silver clip at the top and a white sheet of paper with a curled bottom-right corner. The checklist on the clipboard includes the following items, each with a blue checkmark:

- Seasons
- Weather
- Animals and Plants
- Settings
- Actions and Events
- Objects

A white arrow points from the "Objects" item on the clipboard to the right-hand list. The right-hand list is titled "Objects" and contains the following items:

1. **Window** - freedom or a lack thereof
2. **Walls** - barriers between people; barriers that shut out the world
3. **River or flowing water** - fluidity of life
4. **Water** - washing away of guilt
5. **Fire** - passion, desire; defiance
6. **Silver** - associated with the moon; may represent the object of desire; female or feminine principle
7. **Gold** - perfection; reflection of heaven light; male or masculine principle
8. **Pearl** - knowledge and wealth; associated with water

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