

Lesson7 —Literary Devices

Goal: 5.01c— Students will interpret literary devices such as allusion, symbolism, figurative language, flashback, dramatic irony, dialogue, diction, and imagery.

Literature: “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst

Lesson Focus: figurative language: symbolism

Guided Practice:

Symbolism—the use of objects, persons, places, or experiences to represent something else, usually something abstract. Authors use symbolism to create a visual connection and experience for the audience. They do this in two ways:

TYPE ONE	Objects that suggest a consistent meaning in whatever context they are used
TYPE TWO	Objects that assume significance in a give work

Type	EXAMPLE	Evidence
1	Autumn represents a time of transition, perhaps death	Leaves turn brown and die,” The Scarlet Ibis” and <u>1984</u> by George Orwell
1	The woods represent evil	Woods are dark, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> attack in woods, and woods in <i>Things Fall Apart</i> —Evil Forrest
2	“The Scarlet Ibis” symbolizes Doodle’s exoticism and transience	Like Doodle’s rare personality, the Ibis is also very different. Its stark, red coloring is not native to North Carolina; however, it is found in the woods behind Doodle’s house.

Now, think of what you have read already this year and perhaps in years past. Jot down some potential symbols and the author’s potential meaning or message.

Shared example: *In “Love Orange” Jamaica Kincaid, a young girl struggles to grow up in a family she feels may have no room for her. Therefore, she moves in with her grandmother because her grandmother could devote all her love to the young girl, unlike her mother. In the story, the narrator [young girl] and her grandmother attend a funeral, and the narrator wears a white dress, while her grandmother wears a black one. Kincaid uses the two colored dresses to symbolize the differences between the young girl and the more-experience grandmother. White symbolizes innocence and purity, while black symbolizes experience and perhaps pain and despair.*

Independent Practice:

After clearly defining symbolism, analyzing the two types, and creating your own examples from past reading, read the “The Scarlet Ibis” by James Hurst. Follow the URL to an online text and use the graphic organizer to chart examples of symbolism as your read.

LINK SYMBOLISM ORGANIZER

http://209.184.141.5/westwood/academ/depts/dpteng/L-Coker/VirtualEnglish/Engsih%20I/English%20Ia/scarlet_ibis.htm

Then, answer the following questions by picking the BEST choice!

1. What is the theme of "The Scarlet Ibis"?
 - A. Memories remain clear even with the passing of time.
 - B. Pride can cause people to be cruel even to those they love.
 - C. The world of nature is fragile and must be protected.
 - D. Close friendships are rare among family members.

2. How does the weather contribute to the overall feeling of the story?
 - A. The weather creates a feeling of confinement.
 - B. The weather seems oppressive and endless.
 - C. The weather seems threatening and unpredictable.
 - D. The weather creates a feeling of lightheartedness.

3. Why is the scarlet ibis an appropriate symbol for Doodle?
 - A. The scarlet ibis is rare and remarkable like Doodle.
 - B. The scarlet ibis is small and frightened like Doodle.
 - C. The scarlet ibis is a bird and Doodle is a bird-watcher.
 - D. The scarlet ibis is red and matches Doodle's complexion.

4. What does Old Woman's Swamp symbolize in the lives of the narrator and Doodle?
 - A. the sickness and death around them
 - B. a beautiful escape from reality
 - C. the dangers of war
 - D. their future as old men

5. The narrator is motivated to persist with Doodle's development program by:
 - A. pride in his own accomplishments
 - B. pride in Doodle
 - C. sympathy for Doodle
 - D. defiance to his parents

6. The winds worn by the people in Doodle's stories symbolize Doodle's
 - A. love of birds
 - B. desire to move freely
 - C. wish to travel
 - D. talent for tall tales

Check yourself:

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. B

Closure:

How did you do?

For each question that you missed, look at the correct response and think about why that response was the correct one. What element of the question did you miss when you answered incorrectly? How might you avoid making that same mistake in the future? If you did not

miss any, congratulations! If you did miss a few, use the following tips when answering questions like these in the future:

- 1. Read the question completely and all answers completely.** Sometimes you can answer incorrectly just because you didn't pay close attention to what the question was asking you for, or because you missed a detail in one of the responses. Take your time.
- 2. Pay very close attention to questions that ask for the BEST or the MOST LIKELY answer.** In these questions, the test will often trick you because more than one answer could be correct. What you have to do in these circumstances is think which one is the best.