

Name _____

Date _____

Symbolism

Symbolism is a literary device where an object represents an idea in a story. Symbols help convey deeper meanings and emotions, allowing readers to connect with the story on a more profound level.

Example:

A **broken clock** might represent **lost time** or **regret**, showing that a character feels stuck in the past.

Read the short paragraphs below. Identify the symbol and explain what idea it represents.

Dina stared at the walls of her small apartment, feeling trapped. She dreamed of traveling the world, but her responsibilities—work, rent, and bills—kept her grounded. She turned to her window and saw her pet bird chirping in its cage. Dina scattered seeds inside the cage and hummed a soft tune. The bird sang back, and Dina felt a glimmer of hope.

What is the symbol? _____

What does the symbol represent? _____

Sarah felt overwhelmed. Should she pursue college or join the military? She poured her heart out to her counselor, Mr. Harris. He had a warm smile and always wore a patterned scarf. As they sat together, an owl hooted from the tree outside the window. “Don’t worry, I’ll help you find the right path,” said Mr. Harris. Sarah exhaled deeply, reassured by his words.

What is the symbol? _____

What does the symbol represent? _____

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Symbolism – Answer Key

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What is the symbol? The bird in the cage.

What does the symbol represent? Freedom and confinement.

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What is the symbol? The owl.

What does the symbol represent? Wisdom and guidance.