

SMART™ Lesson

Reading Fiction

Theme and Symbolism in Fiction

In every story, there is an underlying message or idea that the author wants to convey. This message is called the theme of the story. Themes can be moral, social, political, or emotional.

In addition to the theme, authors also use symbols to represent abstract ideas or concepts. These symbols can be objects, animals, or even characters, and they help to add depth and meaning to the story.

Identifying Themes and Symbols

When reading fiction, it is important to try to identify the theme or themes of the story. This can be done by paying attention to the characters, their actions, and the events that take place.

To identify symbols, look for objects, animals, or characters that are repeated throughout the story or that seem to have a deeper meaning. Think about what these symbols might represent and how they add to the overall meaning of the story.

Practice Questions

1. What is a theme in a story?
2. What are symbols in a story?
3. How can you identify the theme of a story?
4. How can you identify symbols in a story?