

SMART™ Lesson

Literary Analysis: Symbolism

Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts in literature. Understanding symbolism helps us identify the deeper meaning behind a story.

Examples of Symbolism

Here are some common examples of symbols in literature:

- The color "green" can represent growth or the environment
- A "dove" can represent peace or hope
- A "crown" can represent power or authority
- A "mirror" can represent self-reflection or self-image

Questions

1. What is symbolism?
2. What can the color "green" represent?
3. What can a "dove" represent?
4. What can a "crown" represent?
5. What can a "mirror" represent?

Symbolism in "The Great Gatsby"

In "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, the green light at the end of Daisy's dock represents Gatsby's hopes and dreams for the future. The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg represent the all-seeing eyes of God, and the ashes that cover everything in the novel symbolize the moral and social decay of the time period.

Questions

1. What does the green light at the end of Daisy's dock represent in "The Great Gatsby"?
2. What do the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg represent in "The Great Gatsby"?
3. What do the ashes that cover everything in the novel symbolize?