

SMART™ Lesson

Analyzing Symbolism in Fantasy Literature

Fantasy literature is a genre of fiction that often features magical or supernatural elements. In these stories, symbolism is often used to help convey important themes or ideas.

What is Symbolism?

Symbolism is the use of objects or ideas to represent something else. For example, a red rose often represents love or passion.

Why is Symbolism Important?

Symbolism can add depth and significance to a story. It allows the author to express complex ideas and emotions in a more subtle way.

Examples of Symbolism in Fantasy Literature

- In "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," the Sorting Hat is a symbol of the different qualities valued by the different Hogwarts houses.
- In "The Lord of the Rings," the One Ring is a symbol of evil and the corrupting influence of power.
- In "The Chronicles of Narnia," the lion Aslan symbolizes Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for humanity.
- In "The Hunger Games," the mockingjay pin is a symbol of rebellion and hope.

Analyzing Symbolism

When analyzing symbolism in a story, it is important to ask yourself the following questions:

- What does the symbol represent?
- What other elements of the story are associated with the symbol?
- How does the symbol contribute to the overall meaning of the story?
- How does the symbol change or evolve throughout the story?

Practice

Read the following passage from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum and answer the questions below:

Dorothy took Toto in her arms and climbed into the buggy. The Tin Woodman had asked Dorothy to put the oil-can in her basket. "For," he said, "if I should get caught in the rain, and rust again, I would need the oil-can badly."

1. What does the oil-can symbolize in this passage?
2. What other elements of the story are associated with the oil-can?
3. How does the oil-can contribute to the overall meaning of the story?

Conclusion

Symbolism is a powerful tool that can add richness and depth to a story. By analyzing the symbolism present in fantasy literature, we can gain a greater understanding of the themes and ideas the author is trying to communicate.

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Analyzing Symbolism

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