

The Importance of Symbolism in World Literature. The Examples of Symbolism in different works of writers

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the role of symbolism in literature through different works of such notable authors as Nathaniel Hawthorne, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Shakespeare and etc. The article's goal in exploring symbolism through this analysis is to shed light on its importance as a literary element that enhances narrative and creates a stronger bond between the text and the reader. Essentially, we contend that a deeper engagement with literature itself is fostered by an appreciation of symbolism, which also improves literary analysis. Ultimately, we argue that an appreciation of symbolism not only enhances literary analysis but also encourages a more profound engagement with literature itself.

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Introduction. The correct interpretation of the symbols and images in literature can have a significant impact in understanding a fictional composition. Symbolism is the practice of using symbols or images to represent ideas, emphasize and convey deeper meanings, present emotions and connect the reader with the work (Abbar, 2023). Symbols are used to show diverse traditions of different cultures, historical context, themes of love and loss and other important ideas. Symbols can be two types: Universal, the symbols that are recognized by everyone (e.g., a rose symbolizes love and beauty or white symbolizes purity) and Contextual, the symbols that have the special meaning within the context of a work (e.g., in Shakespeare's "Macbeth", blood represents guilt (Shakespeare, 1606/2015) or Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter", the letter A symbolizes the changing meaning from shame to strength (Hawthorne, 1850/2008)). In every work, a writer communicates with the reader through symbols by enhancing emotions, pulling the reader down into the atmosphere of the context and giving the deeper explanation of the situation (Sarsenbaeva Zoya Jangabay kizi, 2024).

There are some examples of symbols in literature that represent different ideas and meanings.

Symbols of Nature in literature:

Mountains, rivers, and gardens are examples of elements that might stand for freedom, beauty, or the passing of time. The garden, or bostan, in Eastern literature is especially important since it represents paradise and offers a metaphor for development on a personal level.

A storm can stand for unrest or conflict in literature, whereas a rose can symbolize beauty and love. The seasons can mirror themes of life cycles, with spring denoting rebirth and winter symbolizing death. The sea can represent disorder or freedom (as shown in Shakespeare's plays).

Symbolism in colors and objects in literature:

Ordinary objects in English literature frequently acquire symbolic significance; for instance, the color

green, depending on the situation (as in "The Great Gatsby"), can represent jealousy or rebirth (Fitzgerald, 2013). F. Scott Fitzgerald is one author who skillfully employs color to portray intricate emotional landscapes. Colors with culturally particular meanings—such as black indicating death or white symbolizing purity—often advance the plot or character development in literary works.

Symbolism in cultural context:

Symbols frequently allude to historical events, mythology, and traditional values. For example, in Western literature symbols of authority, spirituality, and identity include the khanate, a kind of political institution, and Islamic features. From a Native American point of view, the eagle is a sign of bravery and power, and the circle stands for unity and eternity. In Chinese culture, the dragon stands for strength and luck, and the color red is linked to happiness and wealth.

Many other authors enriched literature with the help of symbols and images. Through their works, they invite readers to explore the meanings about life, society, human nature, and emotions.

Symbolism in Literature.

In literature, symbolism refers to the use of objects, characters, figures, colors, or other symbols to symbolize abstract ideas or concepts. Authors can portray complicated concepts and emotions in more subtle ways by using symbols, which have deeper meanings than their literal interpretation.

Symbolism is a writing technique in which things, characters, figures, or colors are used to stand for vague ideas or concepts. Here are some well-known literary works that use symbols:

Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" has a river called: For Huck and Jim, the Mississippi River represents freedom and adventure as they break free from social norms and pursue their own identities (Twain, 2013). In Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter", "A" here is the symbol of guilt and societal judgment of that period (Hawthorne, 1850/2008).

The green color was used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" as the symbol of unreachable dreams and desires of the protagonist (Fitzgerald, 2013). In Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude", the symbol of solitude means time and memory. In Herman Melville's "Moby-Dick", the whales were the main symbols representing nature and obsession of the characters.

Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" features White Sails that represent aspiration, hope, and purity as Santiago sets off on his trip; they also symbolize his unwavering spirit in the face of hardship (Hemingway, 2008). J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" features an eye called Sauron. As a perpetual reminder of Sauron's repressive rule over Middle-earth, this emblem stands for tyranny, spying, and ultimate evil.

The colors used in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" are: Several colors have symbolic meanings throughout the book. For example, yellow frequently denotes luxury or decay (as seen with Gatsby's vehicle), while blue is a representation of Gatsby's delusions and fantasies (Fitzgerald, 2013).

Conclusion. A crucial element of literature, symbolism enhances stories by contributing depth and complexity that go beyond simple interpretation. Writers convey complex ideas about human nature, society, dreams, power conflicts, and morals using symbols like the green light in *The Great Gatsby* or the farm animals in George Orwell's works. Readers are encouraged to interact with these symbols in order to not only interpret but also consider how their personal experiences relate to broader issues. This demonstrates the continuing power of literature as a mirror reflecting both personal experiences and universal truths.

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