

Exercise walk-through

6.9

The function of a symbol

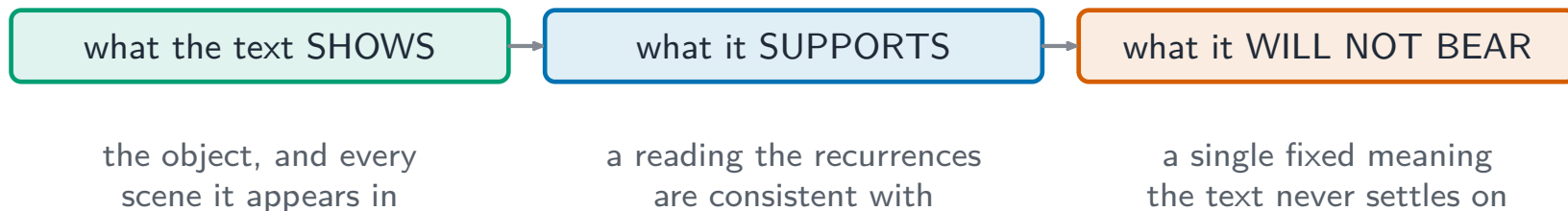
AP English Literature and Composition

The Function of a Symbol

The last point is a warning. A conventional symbol arrives with meanings attached, and the text may be using them, refusing them, or inverting them. Check what the text does before importing the convention.

- When a **material object** comes to represent an idea or concept, it becomes a **symbol**.
- When a **character** comes to represent an idea, that character becomes **symbolic**.
- A symbol is an object that **represents a meaning**, so it is said to be symbolic or representative of that meaning.
- **Certain symbols are so common and recurrent** that readers bring associations to them before reading.

How much a symbol will carry



Write the middle band. “*The river is associated with...*” is defensible; “*the river represents time*” usually is not

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State when a material object becomes a symbol.

[2]

2.2 State the two variables a symbol's meaning depends on.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State when a material object becomes a symbol. [2]

2.1

- when it comes to represent or stand for an idea or concept, while remaining the object it is

2.2 State the two variables a symbol's meaning depends on. [2]

2.2

- the experiences of a reader; the context of its use in the text

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 There are two kinds of symbol.

(a) Distinguish them.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 There are two kinds of symbol.

(a) Distinguish them.

[2]

(a)

- common symbols carry associations readers bring to the text; contextual symbols acquire meaning only through their use in that text

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 There are two kinds of symbol.

(b) State the CED's exam note about archetypes.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 There are two kinds of symbol.

(b) State the CED's exam note about archetypes.

[1]

(b)

- the exam will not require students to identify or label archetypes

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A contextual symbol comes to represent something through

[1]

☐

A its use in a particular text

B the dictionary

C the author's biography

D the publication date

3.2 A character who comes to stand for an idea becomes

[1]

☐

A symbolic

B an antagonist

C a foil

D a narrator

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A contextual symbol comes to represent something through

[1]

☐

- A its use in a particular text
- B the dictionary
- C the author's biography
- D the publication date

3.1 A

- its use in that text

3.2 A character who comes to stand for an idea becomes

[1]

☐

- A symbolic
- B an antagonist
- C a foil
- D a narrator

3.2 A

- symbolic

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A key appears six times in a novel, always when a character is refused something.

(a) State what it has become.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A key appears six times in a novel, always when a character is refused something.

(a) State what it has become.

[1]

(a)

- a symbol

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A key appears six times in a novel, always when a character is refused something.

(b) Explain which kind of symbol it is.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A key appears six times in a novel, always when a character is refused something.

(b) Explain which kind of symbol it is. [2]

(b)

- contextual, since its association with refusal is built by this novel's repeated use rather than brought in by the reader