

7 Epiphany, pacing, and symbols – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

epiphany

Pacing

symbol

motif

Recall

- You have understood something suddenly and acted on it.
- You know a page can cover a year or a minute.
- You have seen an object in a story stand for something else.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Epiphany

An **epiphany** is a sudden realisation that lets a character see things in a new light, often related to a central conflict. It affects the plot when the character acts on it.

Worked example. The realisation is not the whole event; the action following it is.

■ 2 Pacing

Pacing is the manipulation of time in a text - the ratio of text to story time. Ten pages covering a decade move fast; two pages covering a minute move slowly.

Worked example. Short clipped sentences accelerate a scene regardless of what happens in it.

■ 3 Symbols and motifs

A **symbol** is an object standing for an idea; a **motif** is a unified pattern of recurring objects or images emphasising one idea. A motif needs recurrence; a symbol does not.

Worked example. A key appearing six times, always at a refusal, has become a contextual symbol and part of a motif.

Watch out: A symbol's meaning depends on the reader's experience and on the context of its use. A meaning imported from a dictionary of symbols is usually not this text's meaning.

Practice

2.1 Define an epiphany. [2]

2.2 State how an epiphany affects the plot. [2]

2.3 Define pacing. [2]

2.4 Explain why two pages covering a minute move slowly. [2]

2.5 Distinguish a symbol from a motif. [2]
