

Michael Meyer: *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 8th ed.

Fiction: Reading and Study Guide

Lesson Five: Symbolism [Teaching Plan]

Introduction

Activity 1: Conventional symbols (*Team discussion*)

Generate a list of at least 20 common conventional symbols (from 'our culture') to add to those mentioned in the textbook.

Arrange the symbols you have identified into categories or groups.

[Construct a master list for the class]

Activity 2: Common symbols / cultural differences (*discussion*)

What traditional, conventional, or public meanings do you associate with:

Water: *origin of life, baptism rites, cleansing, destruction (floods)*

East vs. West: Dragons, White

Activity 3: Symbol in specific stories (*team analysis*)

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| 1. Divakaruni (p. 281, questions 4 - 6) | 4. Meinke (p. 303, question 6) |
| 2. Colette (p. 284, question 9) | 5. Faulkner (p. 102, question 5, treating the items listed as symbols) |
| 3. Ellison (p. 294, questions 4 and 5) | |

Activity 4: Symbol in magical realism (*class analysis*)

García-Márquez ("The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World," handout, questions 2, 5)