

Michael Meyer: *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 8th ed.
Fiction: Reading and Study Guide

Part Five: Symbolism

Reading:

- o Chapter 7: "Symbolism," pp. 270-273

Stories included in the readings:

- o Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, "Clothes," p. 273
- o Colette, "The Hand," p. 282
- o Ralph Ellison, "Battle Royal," 285
- o Peter Meinke, "The Cranes," p. 301

Vocabulary for study:

(p. 270) embedded
(p. 271) evoke
provincial

petty
subvert
(p. 272) definitive

Literary Terms and Concepts to Know

(p. 270) symbol

(p. 272) allegory

(p. 271) conventional symbol
literary symbol

To sharpen your skills

1. Be certain you can explain the difference between symbolism and allegory, giving clear examples other than those in the textbook.
2. Keep a running list of familiar symbols from daily experience of other reading and viewing.
3. Keep track of the kinds of clues writers use, consciously or not, to guide a reader toward symbols.

Due Date: