Name _____ Symbolism



Symbolism

In fiction, authors sometimes use symbols to communicate important information to the reader. Symbolism is the use of something tangible to communicate something intangible. To determine whether or not an object is being used symbolically in a story, consider the following:

- Does the object appear multiple times?
- Does the object appear during important passages in the text?

DIRECTIONS: Practice identifying symbols. Read each passage. Identify the symbol, and explain what you think it means.

1.

Mary tried to concentrate on what Demetrius was saying, but she was distracted when a small spider suddenly dropped from the ceiling on a thread of web. He hung there in the air for a moment, swinging back and forth just over Demetrius' left shoulder. Demetrius continued to explain himself. Mary needed, half-listening, as she watched the spider fasten one end of his thread to the door frame and set off once again through the air, beginning to build his web.

What is the symbol? _____

What do you think it might mean? _____

2.

Evan woke early feeling curiously light; the lightest he had felt since Leila's death. Drawn by the early morning light, he pulled on his boots and set out for a walk. It has rained in the night. He tramped through the mud, taking great satisfaction in it, and once he strayed off the path and squatted down to examine a curl of pale green plant shoving its way up out from under the earth.

What is the symbol? _____

What do you think it might mean? _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS