

## SYMBOLISM MADE EASY

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A symbol expresses something more than just its obvious meaning. It goes deep and has many different meanings.

Symbols can

- amplify emotion
- add imagery
- connect themes
- reveal themes
- amplify themes
- reveal character
- amplify character
- amplify conflict
- add complexity and depth
- add subtext and nuance
- add more levels of meaning

6 Tips

1. Know your genre. Figure what works best and what the reader expects.
2. Let the word magic come forth organically from the plot and characters.
3. Conjure up the best word choice during revisions.
4. Context is important.
5. Irony trumps everything.
6. People's experiences are different, so a symbol can be seen differently and on a deeper level than someone without that experience.

A Big Caveat

Including symbolic language to sound literary adds nothing to your story. Don't do it!