

Sheet 2: Understanding Symbolism

Worked example:

Read this: 'Nova looked at the wilting sunflower in the corner of her garden.' If the sunflower represents Nova's fading hope, what does it symbolise?

Answer: The sunflower symbolises sadness or a loss of hope.

- **Pip the caterpillar finds an old, rusted key in the library. If the key represents a secret, what does it symbolise?**

The key symbolises...

- **Max the monkey holds a golden compass that never points North. If the compass represents his confusion about where to go next, what does it symbolise?**

The compass symbolises...

- **Leo the lion carries a heavy, iron shield that he never uses in battle. If the shield represents his desire to protect his friends, what does it symbolise?**

The shield symbolises...

- **Match the object to its likely symbolic meaning:**

A stormy cloud: Danger or turmoil A bright lantern: Guidance or truth A broken chain: Freedom or release

- **Think of an object. What could a 'faded photograph' symbolise in a story about history? Write one sentence.**

A faded photograph symbolises...

Self-check: Check your answers against the logic that symbols represent abstract feelings or ideas, not just the physical object itself.

Ready for next: Once you can explain how an object represents a deeper meaning, you are ready to learn about how authors hint at the future using foreshadowing.