

SMU Middle School APSI Sample Theses

1. In "A Tell-Tale Heart," Edgar Allan Poe uses the heart beat of the old man's corpse to symbolize the narrator's pounding guilt. (Haley Bass)
2. In *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, the river symbolizes the division between Jonas and the rest of the world. (Cory Cummings)
3. In Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, the pearl symbolizes what we value in life. (Monica Cypert)
4. In *Holes* by Louis Sachar, he symbolized evil through the devilish color of the Warden's physical features: rattlesnake venomous fingernails, scarlet red hair, and blood sucking lipstick. (Teresa Brotzman)
5. "It's a sin to kill a mockingbird" is just one of the many references to the symbol Harper Lee chooses, representing a theme of lost innocence when protagonist Scout must confront racial prejudice in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Lee #). (Robin Ewers)
6. In *Bud, Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Curtis, uses a suitcase to symbolize the journey. (Janet Gary)
7. In Samuel Becket's "Waiting for Godot," the hats symbolize differences in identity and personality. (Ashley Hanson)
8. In *House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros uses a balloon to symbolize Esperanza's inner conflict with her cultural constraints and desire to be independent. (Lauren Higgins)
9. Ayn Rand uses light to represent freedom from Communist Russia in *Anthem*. (Sarah Kelley)
10. In *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, the darkness represented by "IT" is a symbol of the ever present evil in the world. (Sandy Keller)
11. In "Thank You, M'am" by Langston Hughes, the blue suede shoes symbolize the material possessions the boy can not have. (Paige McCartney)
12. In *The Giver* by Lois Lowry the sled symbolizes the transference of the first memory from Jonas to the giver. (Alison Melson)

13. In *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, the Ceremony of Twelve is a powerful symbol of change because Jonas takes on a new identity, abandons his childhood, and becomes more critical of society. (Mel Mollick)
14. In *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon, the Craig na Dun symbolizes the difficulty of the life choices we continually face. (Mattison Pearce)
15. In *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, light is a symbol of goodness and love. (Nancy Perry)
16. The enormous "pearl of the world" discovered by a poor pearl diver in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, symbolizes the duplicitous lure of worldly wealth. (Preston Philpott)
17. In *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, the black boots symbolize power and fear. (Pam Purdom)
18. In Gary Paulsen's autobiographical account, *My Life in Dog Years*, Caesar symbolizes the significance of suppressing initial judgment. (Chris Reasor)
19. In *Tuck Everlasting*, Natalie Babbitt uses the toad that appears throughout the story to show the importance of the choice Winnie must make. (Jana Shilson)
20. Edgar Allan Poe embodies a nagging memory as a raven in his poem by the same name, "The Raven." (Toni Shipley)
21. In "The Scarlet Ibis," James Hurst uses the ibis as a symbol for Doodle's uniqueness. (Jana Terry)
22. In Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, books symbolize the development of individual thought gained through knowledge and awareness (Mary Terry)
23. One of the most important symbols in American literature is the eye of the doctor looking down on the characters in *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald as if it were God watching or judging down on them. (Kristin Tesar)
24. In "Harrison Bergeron," Kurt Vonnegut uses the removal of heavy body armor to show the importance of respecting differences and treating everyone equally. (Candace Thurmon)
25. In Sandra Creech's *Walk Two Moons*, the loss of the children's mothers represents the losses that we as human beings have to deal with each day as we journey through our lives. (Toni Underwood)