

Symbol- Object, animal or image that holds meaning in addition to its literal function in the story





A symbol can have a variety meanings...

1. PERSONAL: a meaning uniquely associated with personal experiences

2. CONTEXTUAL: a private meaning created by an author

3. CULTURAL: a meaning uniquely influenced by our current culture

NOTE: personal and cultural lenses may make interpreting symbols (and their intent) difficult!
(e.g.: dogs represent faithfulness in China and U.S., but impurity in Indian/South Asian cultures)

4. UNIVERSAL: a meaning that is given to a thing by most people and cultures

(e.g.: lions suggest power and courage in many cultures)



Universally, water represents life and purity, so how we might interpret the use of a polluted river in a story? Going downstream can also represent a journey or acquiring experience, maturation



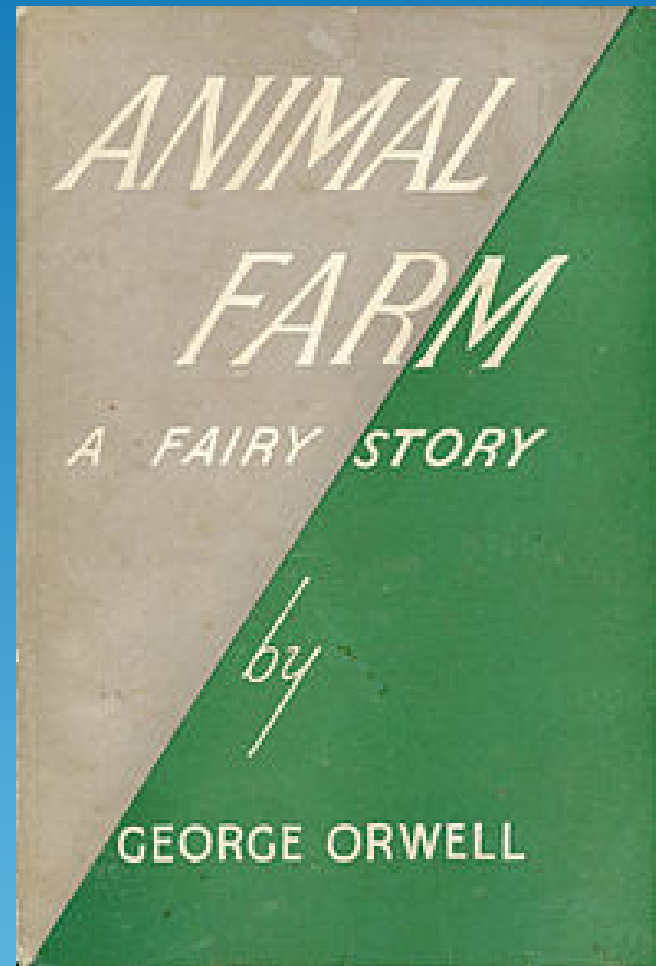
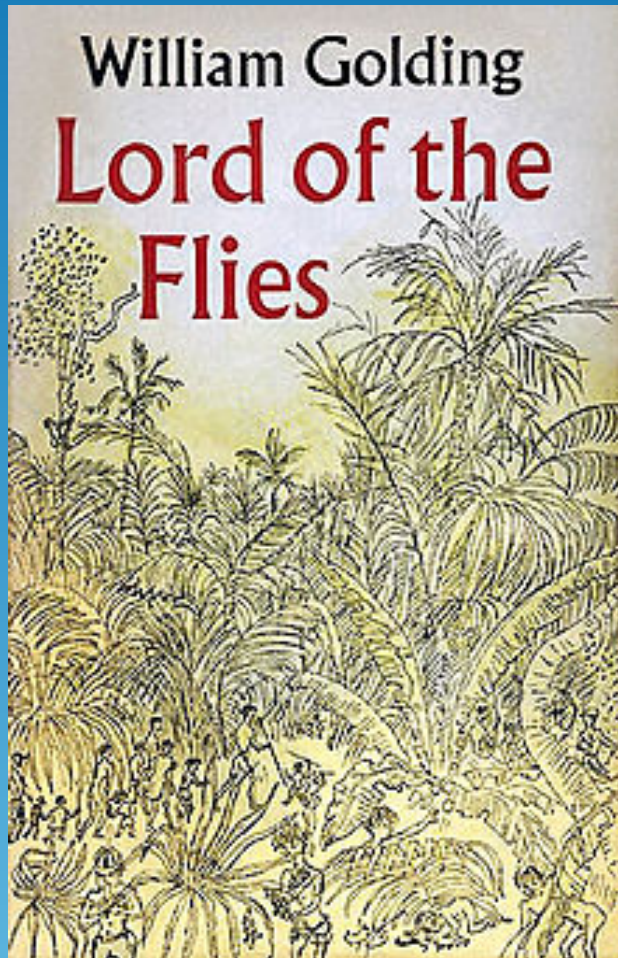
Allegory

A piece of writing in which the entire story serves as a **SYMBOL** (represents something more or conveys an idea)

Therefore, there are quite a few **symbols** within the piece

Found in **fiction**

Allegory vs. Satire





○ Anecdote

A short narrative in a work of nonfiction used to prove a point

○ Analogy

Comparison in which an idea or a thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it.

Found in **nonfiction**