

Tracing Motifs Activity

Below is a clear and concise explanation from www.literarydevices.net of motif and how it is related to symbol and theme from

“In a literary work, a motif can be seen as an image, sound, action or other figures that have a symbolic significance and contributes toward the development of theme. Motif and theme are linked in a literary work but there is a difference between them. In a literary piece, a motif is a recurrent image, idea or a symbol that develops or explains a theme while a theme is a central idea or message.

Symbols refer to any images or objects that symbolize a larger idea or theme. A rose can be a symbol of romance or the color green can be a symbol of jealousy. The difference between a symbol and motif is small and simple: motifs are symbols that recur throughout a work. Whereas a symbol can stand alone in one isolated scene or sentence, motifs by definition must repeat throughout a composition.

Just as symbols fit within the definition of motifs, motifs are a smaller aspect of theme. Themes are overarching, central ideas in stories. Motifs serve to emphasize themes with specific images and symbols throughout the story.”

Your task is to create a small group and choose one of the following motifs. You will trace the motif throughout the novel. You will do this two times. The first time, will be from the beginning of the novel to Chapter 9. The second time will be from Chapter 10 to the end of the novel. You will note the page number and context in which the motif occurs. You will also note the significance and meaning of the motif in relation to theme or other occurrences of the same motif. All of this will be on one shared Google Doc. You can access the Google Doc through a link on the website, www.kosclasses.weebly.com. When this is complete, you will present your investigation to the class. The motifs are as follows.

- Red Hunting Cap
- Ducks in Central Park
- Sex and Intimacy
- Phoniness
- Games/sports
- Childhood
- Snow
- Loneliness/Isolation