Welcome!

This slide presentation will teach you how to create and explain a *symbolic or metaphorical representation* based on one of your vocabulary word for the week. It will also provide the criteria for you to be able to receive full credit for your *symbolic representation*.

There’s a new using *symbolism* in your writer’s notebook that requires students to watch a pretty hysterical video by the group *Imagine Dragons*. For whatever reason, the band has chosen a scene where stuffed animals fight each other to accompany their song “Radioactive.” My kids love the silliness of this video so much, but if you ask them to study the way the director uses *cages* and *keys* to symbolize *oppression* and *freedom*, some amazing discussion happens. Click *here* for that lesson.

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
Vocabulary Collectors

**symbolism** *(noun)* — the use of *symbols* to represent ideas or qualities.

**symbol** *(noun)* — a thing that represents or stands for something else, esp. a material object representing something abstract.

Students, don’t you dare do this! When you find a vocabulary word and look it up, if the definition includes a form of the same word, don’t you dare simply copy that definition down! You need to be able to explain your word’s definition in a way that’s quick and easy for fellow classmates to understand. You will always put the definition in your own words.

How can we merge these two definitions and end up with a better definition for **symbolism**? Try in partners.

What should this word collector have done instead of used the word **symbol** in the definition?

If you answered, “Look up **symbol** in the dictionary,” you are right.

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
**Vocabulary Collectors**

**symbolism** *(noun)* — the use of objects (often material) to represent ideas or qualities (often abstract).

Symbolism is a part of an “E.G.O.T.”

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because it has all four forms!

**My silly E.G.O.T. sentence:** I have begun to symbolize my constant hunger with a symbolic bag of chips, which symbolically I always keep in my locker because of the respect I show my own symbolism.

What might these 4 material objects (touchable) represent that can’t be physically touched? Click to start.

**Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations**
We Wear the Mask
by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

We wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.

Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
We wear the mask!

From your own perspective, what does the mask here represent symbolically? How about the vile (unpleasant) clay beneath our feet?

Re-read the poem knowing this: Paul Laurence Dunbar was an African-American poet. This poem was published in 1896 in a volume of poems called *Lyrics of a Lowly Life*. Thinking from his perspective, what do you think the mask symbolizes?
Vocabulary Collectors

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Time to collect some vocabulary words!

**guile** (noun) — sly or crafty intelligence; skillful trickery.

transitive verb form: *(to)* beguile
adjunctive form: guiling or beguiling

If you were to symbolically represent this abstract noun (guile can’t be touched, after all) with a concrete noun (which can be touched, like a mask), what noun would you choose? Come up with three different ideas by talking with a partner.

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**What do you think of my explanation?**

**guile** *(noun)* — sly or crafty intelligence; skillful trickery.

**My Symbolic Representation:**
I went with a magician’s hat for this word because when tricks beguile me, I frustrate really easily. Magicians are definitely sly and crafty.

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Vocabulary Collectors

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Let’s try another vocabulary word!

**myriad** (adjective) — describing something countless or extremely great in number.

**noun form**: also *myriad*, as in *a myriad of stars in the sky*.

If you were to represent this abstract adjective/noun with something concrete, what would you choose? Come up with your most original idea (not *stars*)! by talking with a partner. Then create a smart two- or three-sentence explanation of your choice.

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
Vocabulary Collectors

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because it has all four forms!

**My silly E.G.O.T. sentence:** I have begun to symbolize my constant hunger with a symbolic bag of chips, which symbolically I always keep in my locker because of the respect I show my own symbolism.

One of your weekly vocabulary options is to visualize/create a **symbolic representation** you have made for your vocabulary word. You may draw, or use clipart, stickers, images, etc.

This will teach you a poetic tool that requires analytical skills, and this will help you become a metaphorical thinker.

This will also help you recognize symbolism in the novels, stories, and poems we read in class.

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
## Vocabulary Collectors

### Symbolic Representation Vocabulary Rubric:

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Click [here](#) for a printable version of this rubric for your students.

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Did Jolie earn a 4 or a 3 or...? What should she do, if anything, to improve?

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
### Vocabulary Collectors

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Did Kevin earn a 4 or a 3 or...? What should he do, if anything, to improve?

*Erudite - Adj*

Having or showing great knowledge or learning.

(Visual Representation) I believe this fits for erudite, since the dog is trying to learn the basics of addition, demonstrating how to be Erudite.

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### Vocabulary Collectors

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Did Ethan earn a 4 or a 3 or...? What should he do, if anything, to improve?

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Did Hunter earn a 4 or a 3 or...? What should he do, if anything, to improve?

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**Did Jordan earn a 4 or a 3 or...? What should he do, if anything, to improve?**

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
In Edgar Allan Poe’s poem, “The Raven,” symbolism is used cleverly.

The poem, which is ripe with vocabulary words, is about a man trying to gain **wisdom** about why the love of his life has **died**. The raven and the statue stand for something beyond themselves. That’s symbolism.

This is an optional, extra poem and thinking task for teachers using this PowerPoint lesson. You can actually summarize & discuss this difficult poem and read only a few of its stanzas, challenging your students to explore it on their own, if you feel it’s too difficult.

Vocabulary Collectors

The first two stanzas from Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Raven” (Click link for PDF of entire poem)

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary, Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore, While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping, As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door. "'Tis some visitor,' I muttered, 'tapping at my chamber door - Only this, and nothing more.'

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December, And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor. Eagerly I wished the morrow; - vainly I had sought to borrow From my books surcease of sorrow - sorrow for the lost Lenore - For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels named Lenore - Nameless here for evermore.

With a partner, chose one of the underlined vocabulary words, look it up, and create a symbolic representation with explanation.
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Refer to the rubric to ensure you’re receiving top points!

Meaningful writing activity = symbolic representations
And don’t forget there’s a fun lesson online that has students write a poem about two opposite symbols in the same place; this is a writer’s notebook lesson I give.

Thanks for watching. Collect vocabulary to better your future. People like you if you have a good vocabulary.

There’s a new using symbolism in your writer’s notebook that requires students to watch a pretty hysterical video by the group Imagine Dragons.

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