

ASSIGNMENT: Symbolism

Part A: Draw a Personal Symbol

Use the Symbols Web to brainstorm and to answer the questions about how you would graphically represent yourself. You can use your personal identity brainstorming, as well. Describe yourself using direct and indirect characterization. What pictures do these questions bring to mind? Once you have completed brainstorming, create the final product of your personal symbol and explain what it means in a brief paragraph of 200 words.

Part B: "Totem" by Thomas King

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

PRE-READING THOUGHTS:

1. What is a satire? What is the difference between irony and satire?
2. What kind of art do you think best represents **Canadian identity**? In other words, if you were to enter a "Canadian Art Gallery" what would you expect to see?

POST-READING THOUGHTS:

1. Describe the setting of the story. Include physical (time and place) and emotional setting.
2. What is the plot of the story? What sort of show was on exhibit? How did the patrons and the employees feel about the totem poles? What did they do to get rid of the problem? What was the final solution?
3. What is the theme of the story? (the topic plus a positive or negative comment which equals a result)
4. How is this story a satire?
5. Remembering that an allegory is a story in which the characters, setting and events are symbolic, so that the entire story represents another story or situation, discuss the symbols in the story. You can use a graphic organizer to show the symbolism. You should include at least 3 symbols. Choose an object, character, or action and explain what it represents. Provide a quotation that supports this interpretation (with citation).

Symbols Web - Brainstorming

1. Sketch the symbol in the circle in the center. Then radiate your brainstorming outwards as you respond to the following questions...
2. Who uses the symbol?
3. What story does this symbol tell?
4. What does this symbol look like?

5. Where is the symbol displayed?
6. What is the spiritual message of the symbol?
7. What is the history of the symbol?
8. How is this symbol's meaning related to the environment?

