ENG 1D3 Mrs.Tate

**Symbolism in *To Kill a Mockingbird***

Symbols are persons, places, or things in a narrative that have significance beyond a literal understanding. The craft of storytelling depends on symbols to present ideas and point toward new meanings. Most frequently, a specific object will be used to refer to (or symbolize) a more abstract concept. The repeated appearance of an object suggests a non-literal, or figurative, meaning attached to the object. Symbols are often found in the book’s title, at the beginning and end of the story, within a profound action, or in the name or personality of a character. The life of a novel is perpetuated by generations of readers interpreting and reinterpreting the main symbols. By identifying and understanding symbols, readers can reveal new interpretations of the novel.

In a small group you are going to be assigned one of the symbols below to complete a more thorough analysis.

You will want to look at this object/symbol/motif in more than one way and from more than one angle. As noted above, think about the deeper meaning.

Then, find quotations from *throughout* the novel which support your claims on what you believe the symbol represents in the book.

**Mockingbirds**

**The Radley House (Boo Radley)**

**The knot hole in the tree**

**The Mad Dog**

**Flowers (camellias)**

**Atticus’ Pocket Watch**

**Evaluation:**

**Knowledge/Understanding /5 marks**

Displays knowledge of characters and main ideas in *To Kill a Mockingbird.*

Explains information effectively and thoroughly.

**Thinking/Inquiry /5 marks**

Provides appropriate and accurate quotations to support symbol’s significance.

Insightful connections between symbols and the rest of the novel are made.

Inferences made to show symbol’s overall contribution to the novel.

**Communication / Application /5 marks**

Makes eye contact with the audience throughout presentation.

Appropriate tone, pace, body language and volume.

Information is presented visually.

**Total /15 marks (Oral Communication Strand)**