

Literary Term: Symbolism

Name _____

A symbol is something concrete that stands for something abstract. A symbol can be a person, place, thing, or action. It can stand for an idea, belief, feeling, or attitude. A symbol has significance beyond its literal self. Some commonly used symbols include:

- A dove symbolizes peace
- A horseshoe symbolizes luck
- A rose symbolizes love
- Springtime symbolizes youth and new beginnings
- Rain symbolizes cleansing
- Fog symbolizes confusion

There are many symbols in *The Wanderer*. Use your best guess as well as your knowledge of the story, plot, and characters to identify what these symbols may stand for.

1. What might the dolphins symbolize in the story? They “visited” Sophie several times. _____

2. Sophie’s stories about Bompie always involve eating apple pie. What does the apple pie symbolize? _____

3. Sophie’s father says that she has three sides to her. What could that reference symbolize? _____

4. Sophie’s mother is quite concerned about her going on the sailing trip. Sophie’s father supports her because he understands that it is something “she just has to do.” What does the sailing trip symbolize for Sophie? _____

5. Sophie has a recurring dream. In it, a large black wall of water is about to come crashing down upon her. Why is the water black? What does black symbolize? _____

