

Writing about symbols with Black Hole

1. Things to think about before you watch

In this lesson you'll practise writing about the use of a symbol in a short film. In a text, a symbol is something physical you can see like an object, a colour or the weather. This physical thing represents something we cannot see - like a feeling or idea. For example, bars and fences are something physical used to shut or lock things in. Throughout a text, scenes which feature bars and fences could show us the idea or emotion of feeling trapped and locked in.

You're going to watch a short film which features a black hole which looks like this:

Before you watch through the film, think of at least three words you would use to describe what this black hole looks like. After this, think about what ideas or feelings the black hole could symbolise.

Black hole - physical characteristics	Black hole - ideas and feelings the physical characteristics could represent

2. Watch through film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5_Msrdg3Hk

As you watch through the film, think about how the protagonist behaves. How does the black hole symbolise the reasons or consequences of his actions.

3. After you watch the film:

Look at the list you made before you watched the film. Try to add at least one thing to the first column and two things to the second column.

Black hole - physical characteristics	Black hole - ideas and feelings the physical characteristics could represent

4. Practice writing

Now it's time to have go writing about the symbolism of the film. Here are two examples of how to write a basic sentence about symbolism in the film:

Physical description of the black hole	symbolism verb	idea or feeling symbolised
<i>The colour of the black hole</i>	<i>represents</i>	<i>the darkness of the protagonist's greed.</i>
<i>The black hole's colour</i>	<i>symbolises</i>	<i>the darkness of the protagonist's greed.</i>

Now it's your turn. Use the ideas you brainstormed in the graphic organiser and the words in the table below to write two sentences about the symbolism in the film.

Physical description of the black hole	symbolism verb	idea or feeling symbolised
<i>The... of the black hole</i> <i>The black hole's...</i>	<i>represents</i> <i>symbolises</i> <i>embodies</i>	<i>the protagonist's...</i> <i>the...of the protagonist's...</i>

Now try adding some detail to your sentences like this example:

Physical description of the black hole	symbolism verb	idea or feeling symbolised	Further detail
<i>The colour of the black hole</i>	<i>represents</i>	<i>the darkness of the protagonist's greed</i>	<i>and how it leads to destruction.</i>

Use one of these words to extend one of your sentences:

and
because
since
which
and also