

**Standards Focus: Understanding Symbolism**

In literature, a symbol is a concrete image used to represent a larger concept or a deeper meaning. Instead of being confined to a precise definition, they offer room for interpretation and have the ability to relate to ideas outside of the novel. Before discussing the symbols present in *The Catcher in the Rye* use the worksheet below to better understand how symbols work.

In order for symbols to accomplish the objectives of the author they must first be like, or closely related to, the thing they depict. Thus, the object must have built-in characteristics that will work with the ideas the author wants to express. For example, the skull and crossbones has been used as a symbol for poison because they represent remnants of a dead body. Bones, then, are taken to symbolize death.

**Directions:** For the following images, identify what they might symbolize and why these symbols are a good representation of a larger or deeper meaning. An example has been done for you.








Image	Symbolizes	Why?
	Poison; Death; Pirates	Bones, as remains of the dead, represent the dead, dying, or a warning of death to come

Image	Symbolizes	Why?
		
		
		
		
		
		

**Chapters Seven—Nine****Standards Focus: Characterization & Foils**

In literature, two characters who contrast one another to such a degree that, when paired, exaggerate the qualities of the other, are called **foils**. They are mirror images of each other. In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden parallels Ackley and Stradlater and they both have a hand in ushering Holden out of Pencey early.

**Directions:** Fill in the chart in order to compare the attributes of Ackley and Stradlater and their influence on Holden. One row has been done for you.

Ackley		Stradlater
	Physical Appearance	
	Age/Grade in School	
Slob - smells bad, does not brush teeth, cuts nails over rug, picks nails, pops pimples	Personal Hygiene	“secret slob”- looks good and well groomed but toiletries are a mess and razor is filthy
	Personal Background & Opinion of One Another	
	Sexual Experience	
	Social Experience	
	Personality	
	Relationship with Holden	
	Influence over Holden’s Departure	