



## The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

by: Avi

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Literature Skills Practice

- A. **Symbolism** - People often speak about symbolism in stories, plays, or films. Symbolism is a literary term for the practice of using an object or event to stand for a concept. For example, a sunrise may be a symbol for a baby's birth, or a cocoon changing into a butterfly may stand for a boy passing into manhood.

Read the passages below. Then answer the questions.

Pepita's cat had escaped from the house and was crying from the top of the tree in the front yard. Inside, Pepita was practicing her piano and did not hear the cat. Pepita was beginning a sonata, and the notes that came from the piano were tentative. Quiet now, the cat stepped gingerly onto a lower limb. Pepita hit the piano keys more confidently. The cat descended the trunk. Pepita ended the sonata with firm resolve. The cat jumped from the trunk and landed on the ground with perfect grace.

1. What is the symbol in this passage?
2. What does the symbol in this passage stand for?
3. Give an example of how the symbol and concept are related.

After Terry did poorly on his first biology test, he began to slack off in class. His teacher, Mr. Dodson, gave Terry a firm lecture about taking responsibility for his own actions. Terry got down to studying and, to his surprise, got an A on the next exam. That night he dreamed that a hundred chicks, all born in an incubator he had designed, chirped happily around his feet.

4. What does Terry's dream symbolize?
5. Why is it a significant part of the symbol that Terry designed the incubator?

- B. **Allegory** - Sometimes, an entire story may represent another concept. When a story itself is a symbol, it is called an allegory. The story of a man battling a whale at sea may, in a broad sense, represent a struggle between humans and nature. This story is itself a symbol, and so it is called an allegory.

In a complete sentence contrast **ALLEGORY** and **ALLUSION**.

C. **Personification, Simile, Metaphor**

Read each passage. Then circle the letter next to the words that mean the same thing as the underlined words in the passage. Finally, circle either S,M, or P to indicate whether the underlined words represent SIMILE, METAPHOR, or PERSONIFICATION.

1. Fran rolled over and poked her head out of the tent. Her breath made little clouds in the chilly morning air. The mountain was still there. It had defeated her yesterday, when she lost the trail to the top. And now the mountain stood silently mocking her.  
a) The mountain was making teasing noises. b) The mountain echoed everything that Fran said. c) The presence of the mountain reminded Fran of her failure. d) There were birds singing on the mountain. ( **S, M, P** )
2. "No mountain's going to get the best of me," Fran grumbled like a bear. "I'll review those maps, check my compass, and double-check every path. I'll make it to the top for sure."  
a) in a low and stubborn way b) from within big furry covers c) so that bears could understand her word d) half-asleep, as if hibernating ( **S, M, P** )
3. Halfway up the mountain, Fran saw a young man. The man was a mountain goat, leaping from rock to rock. When he got down to Fran, he said, "Don't go up that way. The artist made a mistake on the map, and that particular path goes nowhere. The path you want is just around the next bend."  
a) wearing a beard b) able to eat tin cans c) able to scramble easily d) very old ( **S, M, P** )

Read each sentence. Then write the meaning of the underlined words. Circle either S,M, or P to indicate whether the underlined words represent SIMILE, METAPHOR, or PERSONIFICATION.

1. What's wrong? You have an appetite like a bird today. ( **S, M, P** )
2. The rain drummed its fingers on the tin roof of the shed. ( **S, M, P** )
3. The clouds were horses galloping across the sky. ( **S, M, P** )

D. **Plot** Put the following words in their proper place on the plot outline: Climax, Falling Action, Rising Action, Resolution, Introduction.

