

Lights, Camera, Literacy!
High School Edition
Literary Devices in Film Handout (Teacher Notes)

Symbolism in Film	Significance/Meaning
Example #1: Termite Infested House	Point out the house covered with a termite treatment wrap in the background... a subtle message that behind the idyllic suburban facade, trouble lurks. Meg's car is yellow- the color of friendship and warmth. Her turning the car around symbolizes a change in direction for her as a character. She's about to embark on a new adventure - leaving the familiar into the unfamiliar.
Example #2: Electric Sparks	The sparks Edward causes by touching the mic stand with his blades symbolize the love between Edward and Kim. The build up in the scene to the sparks is also important and includes the parallel shots between Edward's face and Kim's face as the cameras slowly zooms in.
Example #3: Bank Scene	The simple black and white color scheme of the first shot symbolizes two choices/paths for Edward. The ridiculously large vault door slowly being closed and locked as Edward is told he cannot open a bank account and definitely can't get a loan and shows he's literally being locked out of mainstream society. The vault door and the serious looking security guards all reinforce this point.
Example #4: Ice Carving Scene	Kim symbolizes an angel...Purity and innocence.

Example #5: Edward's Clothes	Edwards clothes fray and shred as the film progresses. He finally takes off his human clothes all together, symbolizing his rejection of this new world. He's not fitting in - it's over.
Example #6: Sheldon sees an airplane	The airplane represents Sheldon's desire to break out of his current situation. He longs for a better more satisfying life than the one he's been dealt.
Color as Metaphor	
Example #1: Neighborhood BBQ Party	The neighbors at first accept Edward. Dominant colors include: different shades of blue, light greens and beige, light green and yellow. The colors are pleasing and bright, symbolizing their acceptance of Edward.
Example #2: Mob Scene	Dominant color is red symbolizing danger. This is a dramatic change to what they are wearing in the earlier BBQ scene.
Example #3: The Van	Red flames symbolize danger. This is when we are first introduced to Jim as he exits the van looking very uptight. He's the villain. So it makes sense he would be introduced by getting out of a van with large red and orange flames. DANGER!
Sound Effects as Foreshadowing	
	Significance/Meaning
Example #1: Salon Scene	The ominous drone sound that fades in as Edward exits the salon foreshadows trouble for Edward. Things, in fact, go downhill from here for Edward. The look on Joyce's face, combined with the ominous sound effect forecast major trouble for Edward.

Example #2: Little Brother	The dark ominous drone sound fades in suddenly, (it's NOT subtle!) letting the viewer know something bad is about to happen.
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