

## English 10 – Allegory

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**Metaphors** are direct comparisons that serve to illustrate unique and creative similarities between two things

*The moon is a giant pearl in the sky.*

*The road of life is filled with detours.*

*Love is a growling, slobbering, three-headed hell hound that preys on the souls of the innocent.*

**Extended Metaphors** develop a comparison of two things beyond a simple aspect. The comparison can last a paragraph, poem, chapter, or even a novel.

*“The teacher descended upon the exams, sank his talons into their pages, ripped the answers to shreds, and then, perching in his chair, began to digest.”*

Here the writer does more than say “The teacher is a vicious bird.” The extended metaphor describes why.

**Allegory** can simply be defined as symbolic narrative or an extended metaphor. The narrative is said to have two meanings, one surface (literal), and the other underlying (figurative). The entire story can be read two separate ways, with two different sets of characters.

Allegory is everywhere, in books, film, and comics...

For example...

*A son comes to earth from far, far away. His real father is an omniscient entity who guides and watches over him, but on Earth the son has foster parents. The son uses his unique powers on Earth to help Mankind.*

Define the following terms

Industrialization – The large scale development of industry in a given region or country, including the conversion of raw materials and resources into manufactured goods.

Consumerism - social and economic order based on fostering a desire to purchase goods and services in ever greater amounts.

Capitalism – economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production, creation of goods for profit, and the accumulation of capital (wealth)

Environmental Sustainability – Responsible management of consumption of natural resources so as to minimize the negative impact on ecosystems.

While viewing the story, complete the following chart:

Literal Reading of the Story	Figurative Reading of the Story
The Once-ler is	The Once-ler represents
The Truffula Tree is	The Truffula Tree represents

A Thneed is	A Thneed represents
The Lorax is	The Lorax represents

\*You may not come up with specific figurative counterparts to the elements in "The Lorax". It is possible to have a specific character represent groups or types of people.

#### THEMATIC STATEMENT

Write an appropriate thematic statement for the story, "The Lorax".

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## Writing

Dr. Seuss' book "The Lorax" was written over 40 years ago, but retains its popularity through its enduring message. Using the vocabulary provided for you, explain the use of allegory in the story "The Lorax".

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