

M 6.1 (Basisfach) symbols and leitmotifs¹

Walt in front of his house, with the Gran Torino and the American flag in the background, pointing the gun at the Hmong gang
24:16

Definitionen "Symbol":

- OALD (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/symbol?q=symbol>)
- Merriam Webster (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/symbol>)

Analysing symbols

1) Draw a circle around all the objects or people that have a symbolic meaning for Walt (= stand for a more general quality or situation/visible sign of something invisible). Complete the table:

object, person	symbolic meaning

¹ Screenshot-Auswahl, Definitionen und Erwartungshorizont vgl.: Schwerpunktthemenkommission der Regierungspräsidien Baden-Württemberg: *The Ambiguity of Belonging. Gran Torino*, S. 62, 66.

2) Now analyse the symbolic meanings of the objects with regard to Walt. Write a text. The phrases below can help you.

Language Support

The phrases below are useful for analysing symbols. Highlight in three different colours:

1. phrases you can use in the introduction/conclusion
2. phrases you can use to introduce the different objects/people
3. phrases you can use to interpret the symbolic meaning of the different objects and people

Number the phrases in a logical order – this helps you structure your text!

	Finally, the attentive viewer can spot a ...
	The ... can be interpreted as a symbol of...
	In the given screenshot, one can see... in the background/foreground/... on the left/right/at the top/bottom...
	The... is symbolic of... This become evident due to the fact that...
	The most prominent object in this screenshot is...
	All in all, it becomes obvious that all the symbols have in common that...
	Moreover, it is no coincidence that there is also...
	As for this third symbol, it seems to symbolize...

M 6.1 (Leistungsfach) symbols and leitmotifs

Walt in front of his house, with the Gran Torino and the American flag in the background, pointing the gun at the Hmong gang
24:16

Definitionen "Symbol":

- OALD (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/symbol?q=symbol>)
- Merriam Webster (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/symbol>)

Analysing symbols

Analyse the symbolic meaning of the objects in this screenshot. Analyse on two levels:

- *Walt and his personal/psychological situation (What do the symbols stand for with regard to him?)*
- *the historical/ socio-cultural background of the symbols²*

² Je nach Vorkenntnissen der SuS (bzw. Vorarbeit im Kurs) müssen hier zusätzliche Informationen gegeben werden.

MORE HELP: Language Support

The phrases below are useful for analysing symbols. Highlight in three different colours:

- 1. phrases you can use in the introduction/conclusion*
- 2. phrases you can use to introduce the different objects/people*
- 3. phrases you can use to interpret the symbolic meaning of the different objects and people*

Number the phrases in a logical order – this helps you structure your text!

	Finally, the attentive viewer can spot a ...
	The ... can be interpreted as a symbol on two different levels: On the one hand, it ...; on the other hand, ...
	In the given screenshot, one can see... in the background/foreground/... on the left/right/at the top/bottom...
	The... is symbolic of... This become evident due to the fact that... It may also stand for...
	The most prominent object in this screenshot is...
	All in all, it becomes obvious that all the symbols can be interpreted on two levels: On a personal level, ... Moreover, they...
	Moreover, it is no coincidence that there is also...
	As for this third symbol, it seems to symbolize...

M 6.1 (Basisfach, Leistungsfach) symbols and leitmotifs³

1	In the given screenshot, one can see... in the background/foreground/... on the left/right/at the top/bottom... (Walt standing his ground when the Hmong gang threaten Thao, surrounded by many symbols: gun, flag Gran Torino)
2	The most prominent object in this screenshot is... (gun)
3	The ... can be interpreted as a symbol on two different levels : On the one hand, it ...; on the other hand, ... gun – on a personal/ psychological level: symbolic of Walt's self-reliance/ readiness to defend himself as a war veteran; historically: right granted by the Bill of Rights: defend your property with guns – strength, self-responsibility
4	Moreover, it is no coincidence that there is also... (American flag)
5	The... is symbolic of... This becomes evident due to the fact that... It may also reveal... flag: Walt's patriotism, his pride in his country; his personal history; may also reveal his fear that being surrounded by so many different cultures values that are important to him might get lost; together with the gun: may represent the idea of America as a country of freedom, including the freedom of the right to bear arms and defend yourself
6	Finally, the attentive viewer can spot a ... (Gran Torino)
7	As for this third symbol, it seems to symbolize... Gran Torino and its being a <u>vintage</u> car: Walt's living in/not willing to let go of the past; the car stands for times in which he was a successful member of society, contributing to the country's economic strength; American engineering/ economic strength as well as its decline at that point in the movie
8	All in all, it become obvious that all the symbols can be interpreted on two levels: On a personal level, ... Moreover, they... personal level: Walt trying to defend values that are important to him and that he feels are being threatened by the changes around him (refusal to create a sense of belonging with these surroundings) historical level: traditional American values (ambiguous: should not be forgotten or are not up-to-date anymore?)

³ Die **abstrakteren gesellschaftlich-historischen Bezüge** sind nur auf dem erweiterten Anforderungsniveau Teil des Erwartungshorizonts.