

**Title of Session:** Arts and Literacy - Symbols (cont'd)

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

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Room: ArtsSites Group

**BJB2:** Welcome, everyone to this month's Arts and Literacy discussion...

**BJB2:** I'd like to set some ground rules please since we have such a nice group...

**BJB2:** I have an agenda of sites to share with you....the url of the sites is on the whiteboard above this chat on the right

**BJB2:** once you've opened that url, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

**BJB2** . o O ( this will make your chat window larger and easier to follow )

**BJB2:** anyone having trouble opening the url?

**ArturoM** joined the room.

**AidaM:** done

**AdrianB :** done

**BJB2:** welcome, Arturo

**AlexandrMB:** me2

**ArturoM:** hello

**JovanaG:** nope

**JoAnnaG:** nope

**LourdesR:** much better

**BJB2:** I'm going to start the discussion with introductions, please. Tell me what you teach or hope to teach and how you feel symbols are involved in that discipline

**RaylaS:** special Education-.....

**BJB2:** I teach communication in Pennsylvania and feel symbols are important to all

forms of communication

**CarlosJ:** I plan to teach science, symbols are a big part of that field

**MichaelA:** in music..symbols are big as well

**AidaM:** I plan to teach either English or Spanish

**LourdesR:** I plan to teach ELA for junior high kids and am aware that symbols play a big part of our daily lives

**JovanaG:** I'm hoping to teach EC-4 and symbols are very important

**AndreaZ:** I plan to teach elementary school and symbols are great for children

**LuisCM:** Music Education, symbols are necessary

**DavidW:** I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the Helpdesk volunteers. I help teachers learn more about educational technology - I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

**PabloF:** I'm going for my Music Ed. degree

**BJB2:** were any of you at this discussion last month?

**AlexandrMB:** well I want to teach 11th grade lit and I agree with Lourdes that symbols are a big part of our daily lives

**JoAnnaG:** nope

**CarlosJ:** I wasn't

**LourdesR:** I was not

**JovanaG:** no, sorry

**AidaM:** Not me

**AndreaZ:** no

**PabloF:** I wasn't

**LuisCM:** no

**RaylaS:** nope

**BJB2:** Then let's start with what you think a symbol is?

**LizaR:** representation of a word

**LourdesR:** a sign that stands for something or has a meaning

**AndreaZ:** I think it is a visual that helps us remember and visualize an idea

**JovanaG:** a representation

**AidaM:** It represents something

**LuisCM:** how are we supposed to teach without symbolism???

**RaylaS:** replaces a word

**AlexandrMB:** we can't

**BJB2:** ok...let's look at this definition Sign: Something that stands for something else.

**LuisCM:** most of my attention in school was a focus to the symbolism the teacher was using

**JoAnnaG:** a sign that stands for something

**BJB2:** Symbol: Something that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention. Something visible representing something invisible.

**BJB2:** A symbol can be imbued with rich layers of meanings

**LizaR:** so just about anything can be a symbol as long as it's visual?

**JovanaG:** the U.S. Flag?

**BJB2:** well, what do you all think about Liza's question?

**MichaelA:** not really

**MichaelA:** a word can be a symbol

**LizaR:** a smile

**AlexandrMB:** like the peace sign by using our two fingers

**CarlosJ:** anything can be a symbol, it just depends on how you look at it

**PabloF:** the middle finger everyone knows that symbol

**ArturoM:** yes Pablo

**BJB2:** . o O ( thanks, Pablo ;- ) )

**MichaelA:** symbols can be good and bad

**BJB2:** so what is the difference between a sign and a symbol?

**MichaelA:** as Pablo expressed

**LourdesR:** that is true

**AidaM:** I think that even if it is not visible and you can feel it, it can represent something.

**LizaR:** but the same symbol can mean different things to different people/cultures

**LuisCM:** a sign leads you to a certain place or location?

**AndreaZ:** it depends on the context

**CarlosJ:** exactly Aida

**BJB2** thinks this is a very brilliant group! Good thinking!

**LourdesR:** I also agree with Aida

**BJB2:** ok...let's take a look at the page where I got the definitions I just showed you...the first track

**BJB2:** <http://www.symbols.net/>

**BJB2:** This is a HUGE site

**AlexandrMB:** it looks like it

**BJB2:** take a couple minutes to scan what all is there

**LourdesR:** there is plenty here

**MichaelA:** I can see

**JoAnnaG:** there is a lot here

**BJB2:** I'm not advocating this site as an authoritative resource, but it's a great opportunity to look at a variety of perspectives

**CarlosJ:** wow this IS a huge site

**DavidW** smiles

**BJB2:** someone had mentioned cultural interpretations of symbols...

**AidaM:** wow, I like this

**BJB2:** can someone give me an example of how different cultures would interpret a symbol?

**LizaR:** the thumbs up

**BJB2:** tell me more, Liza

**LizaR:** in Europe it's an insult and here in the states it something different

**BJB2** nods...thanks. Anyone else?

**CarlosJ:** dreadlocks are considered a hippy thing in the US, in Rasta cultures it's the norm a part of their culture

**LizaR:** hitchhikers use it to ask for a ride

**LuisCM:** like in some places in the middle east

**PabloF:** very true

**LuisCM:** you can't wave with your right hand

**BJB2:** good one, Carlos. Dreads can also represent gang culture

**MichaelA:** even in our own country things mean different

**BJB2:** what about Native American symbols?

**ArturoM:** colors

**ArturoM:** they also are a symbol

**BJB2:** colors are certainly symbols that represent different things to different cultures

**CarlosJ:** we call the sun, the sun, some native American cultures call it "day-moon"

**AndreaZ:** I wonder if traffic lights have a different meaning somewhere else

**BJB2:** I bring the topic up because you need to be very cautious when you address symbols in your classrooms...

**JoAnnaG:** I remember doing a paper in Brown's class about native American names such as Indians or Redskins used in basketball are offensive

**LourdesR:** good question Andrea

**RaylaS:** when I do yoga.. there is a pose called the tree pose... although it really doesn't look like a tree it represents it

**BJB2:** thanks, JoAnna...that is exactly where I was heading

**BJB2:** let's move to the next track

<http://www.schoolsliasion.org.uk/aliens/access/signsSym/signsSym.htm>

**JoAnnaG:** I remember this newspaper article that said "Orioles skinned the Braves" or something that was offensive

**BJB2:** Symbols have been important to artists from the very earliest times. They often represent an idea or quality, for example the colour white usually stands for purity and the lion makes us think of courage.

**LizaR:** with the exception of the wizard of oz

**LuisCM:** lol

**PabloF:** haha

**CarlosJ:** the artist formerly known as prince, aka that weird symbol

**LizaR:** I think he's prince again

**BJB2:** as you mentioned earlier, color is a powerful symbol...

**AidaM:** Yeah the God of the Muslims

**BJB2:** and different cultures interpret color differently

**LizaR:** like red for rage or blood

**PabloF:** purple for royalty

**AlexandrMB:** exactly

**LourdesR:** so true

**AlexandrMB:** black for death and evil

**MichaelA:** white for purity at weddings

**CarlosJ:** green for nature and growth

**ArturoM:** like the characters from The Wizard of Oz

**BJB2:** something else that I find is that color can be a very individual interpretation....are any of you familiar with Dr. Seuss' My Many Colored Days?

**CarlosJ:** yellow for cowards

**LizaR:** yellow or light colors for tranquility

**LizaR:** y

**JovanaG:** nope

**AlexandrMB:** yes like blue

**AndreaZ:** no

**JoAnnaG:** no

**RaylaS:** no

**BJB2:** <http://www.seussville.com/titles/days/>

**AidaM:** gray for sorrow

**AdrianB:** no

**ChristineQ:** what do you think blue represents?

**CarlosJ:** sadness

**HilarioP:** so we should be careful what colors to use in front of certain kids?

**LizaR:** is that the one where he has different feelings that take on different color representations

**MichaelA:** freedom

**AidaM:** I don't know

**AdrianB:** peace

**MichaelA:** like the sky and ocean

**ChristineQ:** sadness?

**AlexandrMB:** or how baby react to color

**CarlosJ:** I know when I'm feeling blue, I'm often times sad

**LuisCM:** a fresh start

**AlexandrMB:** colors are important to babies

**BJB2:** there is a wonderful video that goes with the book that uses music

**RaylaS:** very important

**LuisCM:** I feel fresh with a lighter blue

**AlexandrMB:** they see more of them

**ChristineQ:** my bf's room is a dark blue, and it calms me, I love it

**CarlosJ:** why do you think artists like SRV and BB king play the blues?

**PabloF:** yeah, I always thought of dark blue as tranquility

**BJB2:** [http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/boxoffice/video\\_detail.cfm?video=39848047](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/boxoffice/video_detail.cfm?video=39848047)

**LizaR:** ?who?

**BJB2:** so sound can be rich with color also

**HilarioP:** if my favorite color is red, does that make me a bad person?

**CarlosJ:** yes, I associate sounds with colors all the time

**PabloF:** no

**LizaR:** oic

**LourdesR:** yes I agree bj

**LuisCM:** I saw in the news that some people see colors when they hear music

**BJB2:** Hilario, that is what I am trying to convey...color is individual

**BJB2** nods to Luis

**AlexandrMB:** no they can have many meanings

**BJB2:** and some people hear sounds when they look at colors

**CarlosJ:** I do

**LuisCM:** every pitch is a different color

**AndreaZ:** really?

**ElissaR:** I often see colors when I play music.....not all pitches, but some...I have a friend who sees colors when she hears pitches

**BJB2:** so...obviously, this idea of symbols is pretty complex

**RaylaS:** very

**HilarioP:** red could represent a rose not just blood

**AlexandrMB:** it is like when u use the media player to play music on the computer

**JoAnnaG:** very

**AidaM:** that is right

**ElissaR:** yes, each pitch is a different color, works both ways for me, see a color, hear a sound, hear a sound and see a color

**CarlosJ:** red could mean STOP!

**BJB2:** Ready to move to the next track?

**LuisCM:** a dark red gives me the creeps

**AlexandrMB:** all different colors appear as it continues

**LizaR:** y

**JoAnnaG:** yes

**CarlosJ:** yes

**BJB2:** . o O ( turn up your sound

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/share/ugrr/index.html?CFID=746017&CFTOKEN=69424248> )

**ArturoM:** yes

**AdrianB:** hope so

**MichaelA:** yea

**BJB2** lets everyone explore that site for a few moments

**ElissaR:** can't seem to get there,

**AidaM:** can't open it

**BJB2:**

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/share/ugrr/index.html?CFID=746017&CFTOKEN=69424248>

**CarlosJ:** when I associate sounds with colors I think of Pink Floyd

**RaylaS:** good one

**BJB2:** another book that is a lovely example of quilts as symbols is Show Way

**AidaM:** Now I did

**JovanaG:** the old south

**BJB2:** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott

**JovanaG:** sitting on a front porch

**AlexandrMB:** the lesson sounds fun and informative

**LourdesR:** cool

**BJB2:** symbols can be used as maps to freedom, as recorders of history

**PabloF:** the Mayan calendar is all symbols

**BJB2** nods to Pablo

**LuisCM:** 2012

**MichaelA:** so are street signs

**LourdesR:** oh yea that is true

**CarlosJ:** think about it, what you're reading right now, what is that?

**BJB2** smiles...right, Carlos....we'll get to that in a couple minutes

**RaylaS:** letters are symbols too

**BJB2:** take a look at this cultural symbolism  
[http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/nasp/hd\\_nasp.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/nasp/hd_nasp.htm)

**AlexandrMB:** it lets the students feel the history

**AlexandrMB:** that our country had

**AlexandrMB:** like the slavery issues it mentions

**AidaM:** interesting

**BJB2:** yikes...I must have caught that disconnect bug from one of you!

**LourdesR:** rather interesting

**BJB2:** language is certainly a code if not symbolic...

**BJB2:** what about American Sign Language?

**PabloF:** the written Chinese language

**AidaM:** I like the Islamic signs

**MichaelA:** what about all the internet abbreviations?

**RaylaS:** I was thinking that

**MichaelA:** lol idk brb ect....

**ElissaR:** any sign language is based on symbols

**AndreaZ:** does sign language change for different spoken languages?

**LourdesR:** even ASL has some signs that mean different things

**MichaelA:** yea it does

**BJB2:** Hold on a sec, everyone....

**LizaR:** yeah

**ElissaR:** yes, and also for different regions and dialects

**AidaM:** This picture is very nice

**CarlosJ:** my son is learning to sign before he can actually talk

**LizaR:** for instance at the hospital you can get a person who signs in English or Spanish if you need it

**HilarioP:** mine to

**BJB2:** we're starting to get to some superficial definitions and confusing signs with symbols

**DavidW:** that's interesting, Carlos

**AlexandrMB:** I bet it comes in handy

**ElissaR:** we taught my son sign first.....he was able to grasp spoken language better and NO terrible twos

**RaylaS:** it's very cool... and they are different signs for different words.. it just depends who teaches you or where you're at

**ElissaR:** also was great for his motor skills development

**BJB2** nods to Rayla...the ASL site in the tracks is <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/>

**AlexandrMB:** now u don't have to wonder what he needs or want

**CarlosJ:** but it worries me that he might find it easier to sign than talk to us

**RaylaS:** its nice he just shows us what he wants..

**ElissaR:** Because sign lang is based on symbols and full concepts, my son was thinking in full sentences and thoughts at a much earlier age.....nope, he wont find it easier, he'll just add spoken word to his bag of communication tools

**ElissaR:** I promise

**CarlosJ:** btw, Rayla is my wife (if any of you were wondering about that last comment)

**BJB2** smiles...nice!

**JoAnnaG:** oh ok

**BJB2:** Here's the topic you're not supposed to discuss...religion

**BJB2:** <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/religion/rel3a/>

**PabloF:** ooo

**AidaM** smiles

**BJB2** . o O ( never discuss politics or religion )

**CarlosJ:** don't get me started on that.....

**ElissaR:** should we go there?

**JoAnnaG:** uh oh

**HilarioP:** don't go there

**LourdesR:** let us not get started

**AdrianB :** no

**ElissaR:** to the site, I mean...not to the religious discussion

**AidaM:** oh no

**AdrianB :** ok

**AidaM:** why argue about that

**LourdesR:** let us have it

**BJB2:** <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/religion/rel3a/>

**BJB2:** this site is from the UK. Has some great information

**CarlosJ:** cool site

**AlexandrMB:** it is

**RaylaS:** it does have great information

**AdrianB:** yeap

**BJB2:** I'm going to move along before we run out of time....everyone's favorite: animals

**BJB2:** <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/animals.htm>

**LourdesR:** gotta love animals

**AidaM:** not bad

**AidaM:** I love animals

**LuisCM:** loved the zoo

**MichaelA:** me too

**AlexandrMB:** of course who doesn't

**AdrianB:** me 2

**AndreaZ:** me3

**JoAnnaG:** me 4

**ArturoM:** me5

**LuisCM:** I have a puppy

**BJB2:** and animals can be used from pre-k to university level

**LuisCM:** biology

**AndreaZ:** even religion

**AidaM** laughs

**BJB2:** for you musicians: <http://musiced.about.com/b/a/257685.htm>

**AlexandrMB:** because no can get enough

**AidaM:** I thought I was going to see real animals

**LuisCM:** elephants are popular in some cultures

**AlexandrMB:** or mean good luck

**CarlosJ:** so are tigers and cows

**AndreaZ:** birds too

**LuisCM:** the horoscopes

**ElissaR:** lions mean strength,

**LourdesR:** I'm a sheep in the Chinese calendar

**LizaR:** cows are sacred in India

**ElissaR:** wolves are sneaky

**BJB2:** and for those who want to explore that stop sign a little more:  
[http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz/resources/units/signs\\_symbols/international.html](http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz/resources/units/signs_symbols/international.html)

**LuisCM:** cancer is a crab

**AlexandrMB:** I am a bunny

**ElissaR:** owls are wise

**LuisCM:** I'm a tiger

**BJB2** wonders if anyone is looking at the sites just shared?

**LizaR:** yes, lyk da asl

**AdrianB:** it's loading

**JovanaG:** yes

**BJB2** makes a note to save the animals for last next time ;-)

**AlexandrMB:** yeah weird symbols

**ElissaR:** I am trying, but they are not working, even when I type the addy seperately, using my son's comp....funky stuff happening

**ElissaR:** sorry

**CarlosJ:** I would if it didn't take me a while to type in the long URL

**CarlosJ:** I can't click them

**ElissaR:** I can't seem to connect just by hitting the link

**ElissaR:** me either

**AidaM:** lots of these signs are seen every day

**ElissaR:** nope. not working, keep clicking, not moving

**LourdesR:** oh yea we have seen these in many places

**CarlosJ:** my comp makes this bubble sound and doesn't work

**HilarioP:** they are common signs that everyone can understand

**HilarioP:** like the male/female restroom symbols

**AlexandrMB:** yea they are

**BJB2:** the urls will be in your transcripts so hopefully you can look later

**AidaM:** When driving

**CarlosJ:** yeah just copy and paste them from the trans

**JoAnnaG:** yeh

**ElissaR:** to Carlos, thanks for sharing....I was starting to feel left out and less than computer savvy :(

**BJB2:** so while some symbols vary from culture to culture, there are some symbols that are international

**JovanaG:** true

**AndreaZ:** right

**ElissaR:** music symbols are almost universal

**CarlosJ:** I think the smile is universal

**AlexandrMB:** that is true too

**ArturoM:** the thumbs up

**ElissaR:** yup

**AdrianB :** true

**RaylaS:** good

**PabloF:** math symbols are universal

**CarlosJ:** everyone understands a smile and a laugh

**AlexandrMB:** or a hand wave

**PabloF:** right?

**ArturoM:** the ok sign

**LuisCM:** gestures

**AdrianB :** agree with Pablo

**MichaelA:** a wink

**LourdesR:** smiles are contagious

**HilarioP:** thumbs up

**ArturoM:** I agree with Mike

**BJB2:** here's another one on the underground railroad

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/secrets/music1.cfm>

**CarlosJ:** so are yawns

**HilarioP:** what about the peace sign? do you think that's universal?

**AidaM:** I agree with Lourdes

**ElissaR:** babies have a universal language....symbols as well, dont you think?

**CarlosJ:** I think the peace sign is becoming a part of everyone's culture

**BJB2:** I wish it was universal, Hilario

**BJB2 .** o O ( it's also a gang sign )

**MichaelA:** even in the movie the little rascals

**ArturoM:** wow

**AlexandrMB:** what!

**MichaelA:** he man woman hater club

**JoAnnaG:** really?

**ArturoM:** it's a gang sign?

**BJB2** nods sadly

**CarlosJ:** yeah vatos locos

**ArturoM:** didn't know

**ArturoM:** lol

**JoAnnaG:** I didn't know

**AlexandrMB:** umm. that's sad

**AlexandrMB** frowns

**LourdesR:** that's too bad

**LuisCM:** any hand symbol could be from a certain gang

**LuisCM:** I guess

**BJB2:** for those interested in language take a look at  
<http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/langorigins.html>

**LuisCM:** lol

**AlexandrMB:** I like it

**AndreaZ:** onomatopoeia sounds are different in different languages

**LourdesR:** interesting

**PabloF:** ah yes, very true

**BJB2:** I also found this site interesting <http://www.lyricalworks.com/homepage.htm>

**AidaM:** wow, I'm saving it on my favorites

**JoAnnaG:** bye everyone I'm going to attend another workshop at 7 pm

**ElissaR:** sometimes, if I think my students are having trouble understanding and/or remembering the lyrics of a song they are singing, I'll teach them the signs (ASL) it makes it easier to translate and remember

**CarlosJ:** song lyrics are hard to understand sometimes

**DavidW . o O** ( but often easy to remember because of the music )

**LuisCM:** literally

**CarlosJ:** exactly

**AndreaZ:** yeah

**RaylaS:** I like music

**AlexandrMB:** yep!

**LourdesR:** I agree

**ElissaR:** yes, they are...I am going to move over to the blogging session, it's been fun, thank you for including me.

**CarlosJ:** I can remember a songs lyrics by hearing its melody

**AlexandrMB:** me 2

**CarlosJ:** even if I cant remember them with out it

**CarlosJ:** some people are just more musically inclined

**MichaelA:** is it the songs or catchy beats?

**DavidW:** could be both, Michael

**LuisCM:** to me is the catchy beats

**HilarioP:** I once read about a math teacher who taught his kids through music

**LourdesR:** I enjoyed this session have to go to another class thanks

**RaylaS:** that would be cool

**ArturoM:** it's sometimes both Michael A

**ArturoM:** don't you think so

**CarlosJ:** for some reason when I hear country music, I kind of tune out the lyrics

**DavidW:** wonderful connections between math and music, also math and dance

**LuisCM:** everything is math

**DavidW** smiles

**AidaM:** that is true

**AlexandrMB:** ummm. it like hananna montana dance about the human body

**RaylaS:** that's cool

**BJB2:** we have a couple minutes left...any final comments?

**HilarioP:** I think I could have remembered more math facts if i learned a song about them.

**RaylaS:** great discussion!!!!

**ArturoM:** I agree

**AlexandrMB:** I agree too

**ArturoM:** very informative

**PabloF:** enlightening

**AlexandrMB:** it was a good class

**CarlosJ:** I think symbols are one of the largest parts of our lives whether we notice it or not

**MichaelA:** like the names of the states in order

**AndreaZ:** the web sites were very interesting

**AidaM:** yeah

**RaylaS:** have to go now... have another one to go to ....

**ArturoM:** I agree with Pablo

**RaylaS:** bye

**AlexandrMB:** thanks BJ

**AdrianB:** very informative and cool sites

**BJB2:** . o O ( a reminder that all the urls are on the track on the whiteboard )

**AlexandrMB:** yep!

**HilarioP:** thanks for the interesting chat.

**DavidW:** Here's a web site for math and dance, if folks are interested:

**AidaM:** see you all

**DavidW:** <http://www.mathdance.org/>

**BJB2:** thanks, David

**LuisCM:** have a good one

**PabloF:** thank you, bye everyone

**JovanaG:** thanks for the sites BJ

**BJB2:** thank you all...good job!