

# ASSIGNMENT: Symbolism

"Totem" by Thomas King

Answer the following questions in complete sentences after reviewing all the literary terms in the lesson for this assignment.

## PRE-READING THOUGHTS:

1. What is a satire? What is the difference between irony and satire?
2. What kind of art do you think best represents **Canadian identity**? In other words, if you were to enter a "Canadian Art Gallery" what would you expect to see?

## POST-READING THOUGHTS:

1. Describe the setting of the story. Include physical (time and place) and emotional setting.
2. What is the plot of the story? What sort of show was on exhibit? How did the patrons and the employees feel about the totem poles? What did they do to get rid of the problem? What was the final solution?
3. What is the theme of the story? (The theme in a story is its underlying message, or "big idea".)
4. How is this story a satire?
5. Remembering that an allegory is a story in which the characters, setting and events are symbolic, so that the entire story represents another story or situation, discuss the symbols in the story. You can use a graphic organizer to show the symbolism. You should include at least 3 symbols. Choose an object, character, or action and explain what it represents. Provide a quotation that supports this interpretation (with citation).

## Symbols Web - Brainstorming

1. Sketch the symbol in the circle in the center. Then radiate your brainstorming outwards as you respond to the following questions...
2. Who uses the symbol?
3. What story does this symbol tell?
4. What does this symbol look like?

5. Where is the symbol displayed?
6. What is the spiritual message of the symbol?
7. What is the history of the symbol?
8. How is this symbol's meaning related to the environment?

