**motif**: a recurring object, concept, or structure in a work of literature. A motif may also be two contrasting elements in a work, such as good and evil.   
(**REPEATS** in several parts of **BOOK**)

**Symbol**: an object or tangible thing that represents an idea or concept.   
(occurs **ONCE** in **BOOK**)



**theme**: a common thread or repeated idea that is incorporated throughout a literary work. A theme is a thought or idea the author presents to the reader that may be deep, difficult to understand, or even moralistic. Generally, a theme has to be extracted as the reader explores the passages of a work. The author utilizes the characters, plot, and other literary devices to assist the reader in this endeavor. Themes extend beyond the work itself, since it has universal applications.   
(is implied **THROUGHOUT THE BOOK** but has truth   
**BEYOND THE BOOK**)