Bend 1:3 - Noticing and Analyzing
Symbolism and Allegory

Students should: understand that dystopian and fantasy readers know, since the entire world of their story is created by the author for a reason, that most things in their stories mean something more – whether as an image or a symbol.

Goal: Students will understand symbolism vs. allegory as literary terms.

"One way to be a wise reader is to read noticing things that feel as if they have a spotlight on them, left by the author – things that seem to pop out at us – and asking yourself, ‘What could this be really? Why did the author make the choice to include this here? What message is it trying to send?’”

“Today I want to teach you that readers look out for parts of the story that feel as if they have a spotlight on them, left by the author to point towards something bigger. They re-read these parts to ask: ‘What could this be really? Why did the author make the choice to include this here? What message it is trying to send?’”
Symbolism refers to objects which stand for concepts with greater meaning (wedding ring, flag).

Allegory - entire narrative work (plot line, character, conflict) is an extended metaphor. The allegorical meaning is the figurative or symbolic representation through: parables, fables, poems, short stories, novel.

Metaphor cue words: is, was, were, are.
Simile cue words: like or as

Teaching Video: Symbolism vs. Allegory:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVZTcUj1yJg

Mentor Text: The Hunger Games - 13 colonies Allegory
Video link: http://www.traileraddict.com/the-hunger-games/trailer

The country of Panem is located in what once was North America. In the middle sits the Capitol, a center of wealth which organizes the yearly Hunger Games. Surrounding the Capitol are thirteen districts, regions which fall under the control of the Capitol. The districts all have distinct personalities (District 13 - destroyed by nuclear war and uninhabitable; District 12, for example, is a coal-mining community; District 11 is primarily agricultural), yet they are all ruled from afar by the cruel and powerful government of the Capitol.

Thirteen districts ruled by a harsh and distant power? What is that reminding the reader to connect?

During the colonial period, a portion of North America was also split into thirteen colonies: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. As colonies, these regions reported to the British rule.
Just as in the Hunger Games, colonists in North America supplied folks back in England with goods such as cotton and tobacco; and much like the Capitol, the British government often imposed rules, laws, and restrictions on the colonies that the people living there felt to be pretty unfair. Liberty or death and thus: the Revolutionary War began.

The thirteen districts of Panem are in a very similar position as the original North American colonies. Both have fallen under the rule of a tyrannical system of government. Unlike the original colonies, whose story we can read about in American history books, we don't yet know the fate of the 13 districts of Panem. Will the districts of the Hunger Games also ask for their independence from the Capitol? It looks to us like a revolution might just be on the horizon.

HW - please jot on a sticky an allegory connection and at least one symbol from your current dystopian or fantasy book based on our notes and discussion today. This may be used in your blogging in "gold". Just do your best to try to comment on a possible allegory and symbolism you are finding in your books.
Attachments

   All Summer In A Day