

“The Masque of the Red Death” by Edgar Allan Poe (text page 78)

Literary Focus: Symbols

A **symbol** is a character, place, object, or event that represents something else. An author often uses symbols in a story in order to teach a lesson.

Complete the following chart. Explain what you think each symbol in “The Masque of the Red Death” represents and how it helps teach the lesson of the story.

Symbol	What it represents	How it helps teach the lesson
<i>Example: dreams</i>	Masqueraders, fantasies	Shows us that life is fleeting; forebodes the grim ending to the story
1. the masked visitor		
2. the black chamber		
3. the music		
4. the tripods with the flames		