

# How to Explain Symbols

When you explain a symbol, you need to include these *three points*:

- a. the *object*
- b. the *meaning* of the object
  - e.g. Why does it have that meaning?
- c. the *context* of the object
  - e.g. When and where you see it in the story?

**Read the following symbol explanations. Does each one include all of the necessary information? If no, what points are missing?**

1. Roof tiles are a symbol. They represent life and death.
2. One symbols is a gun. Guns show that war occurs in the world.
3. The HAL 9000 computer is a symbol.
4. A black leather mini-skirt is a symbol. Black stands for death.
5. Clothes are a symbol of wealth and class. Emma always wears a beautiful dress, so you can understand that she is rich.

