Megan Bates

Ms. Opalenik

English 9 “G”

03 November 2014

Defining Symbolism Essay

Symbolism is something that represents another thing. According to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary, “Symbolism- representation of abstract or intangible things by means of symbols” (pg. 733). The American flag, the bald eagle, The Statue of Liberty, the Arlington Cemetery, and The Purple Heart are all examples of symbolism. Symbolism is used in real life, as well as in literature.

One time, symbolism was involved in my life when Ms. Opalenik gave me a cue-tip. This is symbolism because the cue-tip represents misbehavior. On this particular day, I got my cue-tip because I tried to Randy Kevin Orton (RKO) Devin. An RKO is when you grab the person’s head and violently fall to the ground, bringing their face first. This action deserved a cue-tip because it was violent. If you collect three cue-tips, you get a detention and a phone call home.

In addition to using symbolism in real life, symbolism is also commonly used in literature. One example of this is in “The Most Dangerous Game.” There is a lighthouse which indicates a safe passage for ships. This symbolism confuses, and frequently causes the demise of, sailors passing in the night. This is because General Zarrof made a trap of the canal.