**Understanding Symbolism in THE GAP by Ian Ross**

**Symbolism:**

A symbol is something that stands for itself, but also something larger than itself. It may be a person, an animal, an inanimate object, or an action. A symbol may appeal to a readers emotions and can provide a way to express an idea, communicate a message, or clarify meaning.

There are conventional symbols and private symbols:

A **conventional symbol** is one that is widely accepted and used by many writers; for example a rose represents “love” and “cross in the roads” represents having to make a decision or taking your own path.

-Can you think of three more conventional examples?

A **private symbol** is one that an individual writer creates for a particular work of literature.

**Symbolism:**Consider the following and make notes as we read: Takes these notes in your journal and you will eventually send me a picture of all the notes, questions and research you have completed as a part of the PROCESS before you compete a formal written task.   
   
Mr. Connelly (his disappearance):

   
   
The “starling” bird that died:

   
The Flood:

   
The River and the sandbags: p12 –

   
Eating the Dog:

   
Watching WWF:

   
Foods Eaten:

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Using the Bathroom:

Other:

**Writing Task: Creating a thesis statement…**

Select a central symbol from, “The Gap.” State what the symbol reveals about the characters and the theme of Ian Ross’s play.

Select three different symbols from the play, “The Gap” and explain how they contribute to the message Ian Ross is trying to make about society.