

## Handout 24.2. Symbolic Analysis Assignment Sheet

Through our reading of Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, we have considered symbolism at various points. For example, we examined Randle Patrick McMurphy's boxers, his jailhouse tattoos, and even his hearty laugh to discern some greater meaning and significance.

Based on our reading, we will now work to demonstrate our understanding of one complex character, theme, or relationship in the novel by finding symbolic representations in art and explaining the connections through a dynamic digital tool called VoiceThread.

For this assignment, you will:

1. Identify a key element (character, theme, or relationship) of the novel to work with
2. Analyze a piece of album artwork to explain symbolic representations of the novel
3. Compose your analysis by creating a VoiceThread to share with your peers

### 1. Identifying a Key Element from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

While this assignment pulls together a number of parts, Ken Kesey's novel is truly at its core. For this assignment, you must consider what you know about the main characters, central themes, and prominent relationships that have been developing throughout our reading of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. You then must identify one key element (character, theme, or relationship) from the novel to serve as the focal point for your symbolic analysis.

### 2. Analyzing Album Art to Explain Symbolic Representations

With an element from the novel in mind, you must start thinking about how your chosen element might be represented *symbolically* (not literally). After giving this some thought, you must identify a piece of art from a music album that *symbolically* represents the element in question.

As you work to identify a piece of album art, understand that the assignment calls for you to analyze the art, emphasizing the ways in which it is *symbolic* of the chosen element from the novel. Thus, your analysis requires you to cite evidence from the novel to support your claims.

When "reading" images to find symbolic meaning, remember that colors, objects, spacing, expressions, alignment, and positioning all hold incredible meaning and can represent various ideas. These are the elements of the art you'll want to find meaning in and connect back to the novel.

### **3. Working with VoiceThread**

To share your work and help you highlight the features of the art that hold symbolic meaning, you will create a VoiceThread of your analysis. VoiceThread allows you to not only share images but also record commentary and receive feedback from others who have viewed your work. We have a secure class domain set up with individual accounts at <http://voicethread.com/>.