

Suspense  
&  
Symbolism



# Definition of Suspense

*noun*

a state or feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen.

# *Necessary for Suspense*

1. Reader empathy
2. Reader concern
3. Impending danger
4. Escalating tension

## Creating Suspense Using Genre Elements

	MYSTERY	HORROR	SUSPENSE
Timing of Crime or Crisis Event	The violence occurs before the story begins.	Readers see it happening.	Readers anticipate that it will happen.
Narrative Question	Who was responsible for the crime?	How will the character die?	How can the crisis or impending crime be averted?
Reader Orientation	Readers may lag behind the detective in understanding the clues.	Readers view the action; they're in on the secret.	Readers know about danger that the characters do not.
Reader Appeal	Head (intellectual curiosity)	Gut (visceral reaction)	Heart (worry and concern)

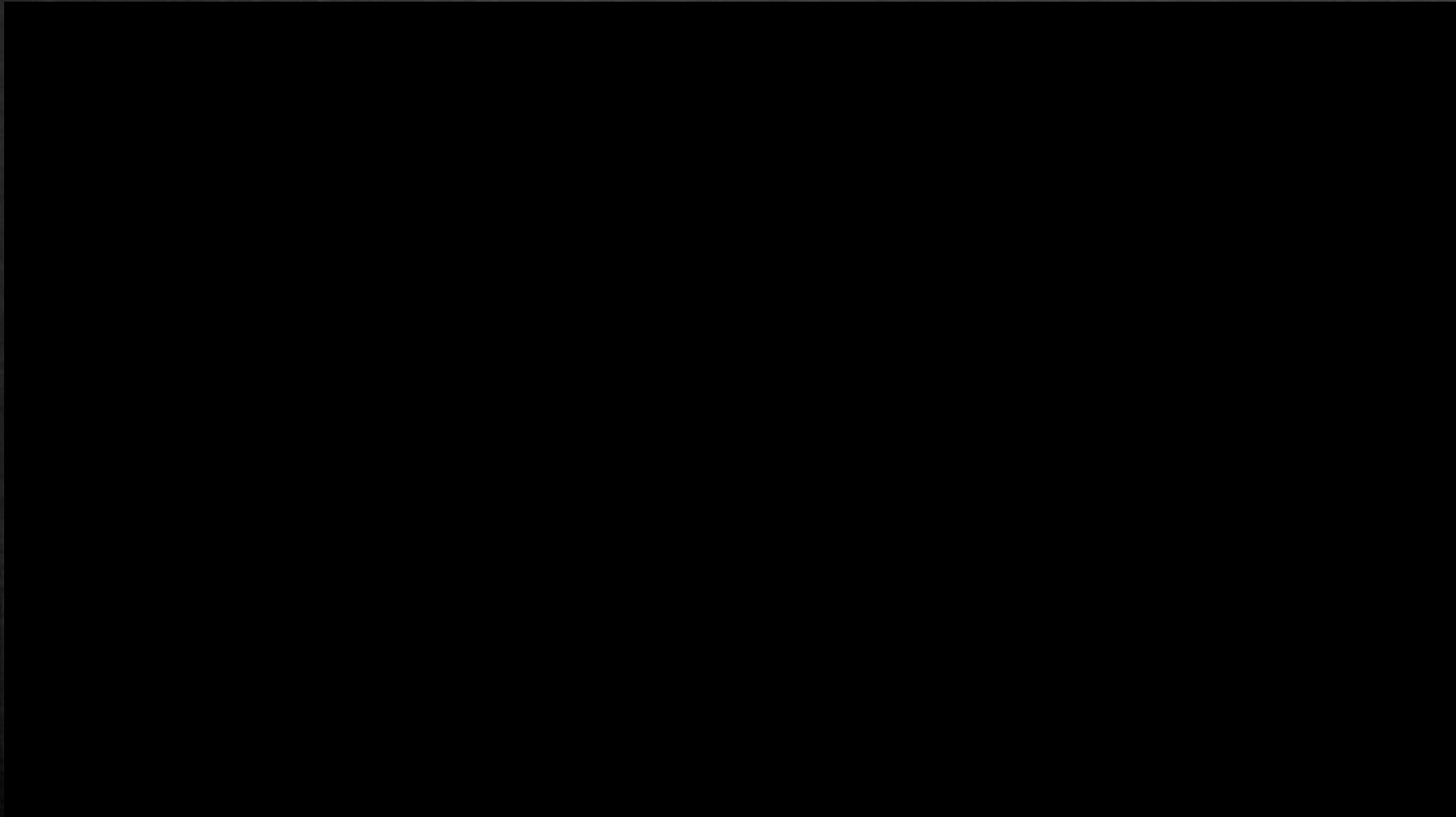
# Methods Authors Use

- Time constraints
- Pressure
- Dilemmas
- Unpredictability
- Worry
- Isolation
- Flashback
- Foreshadowing

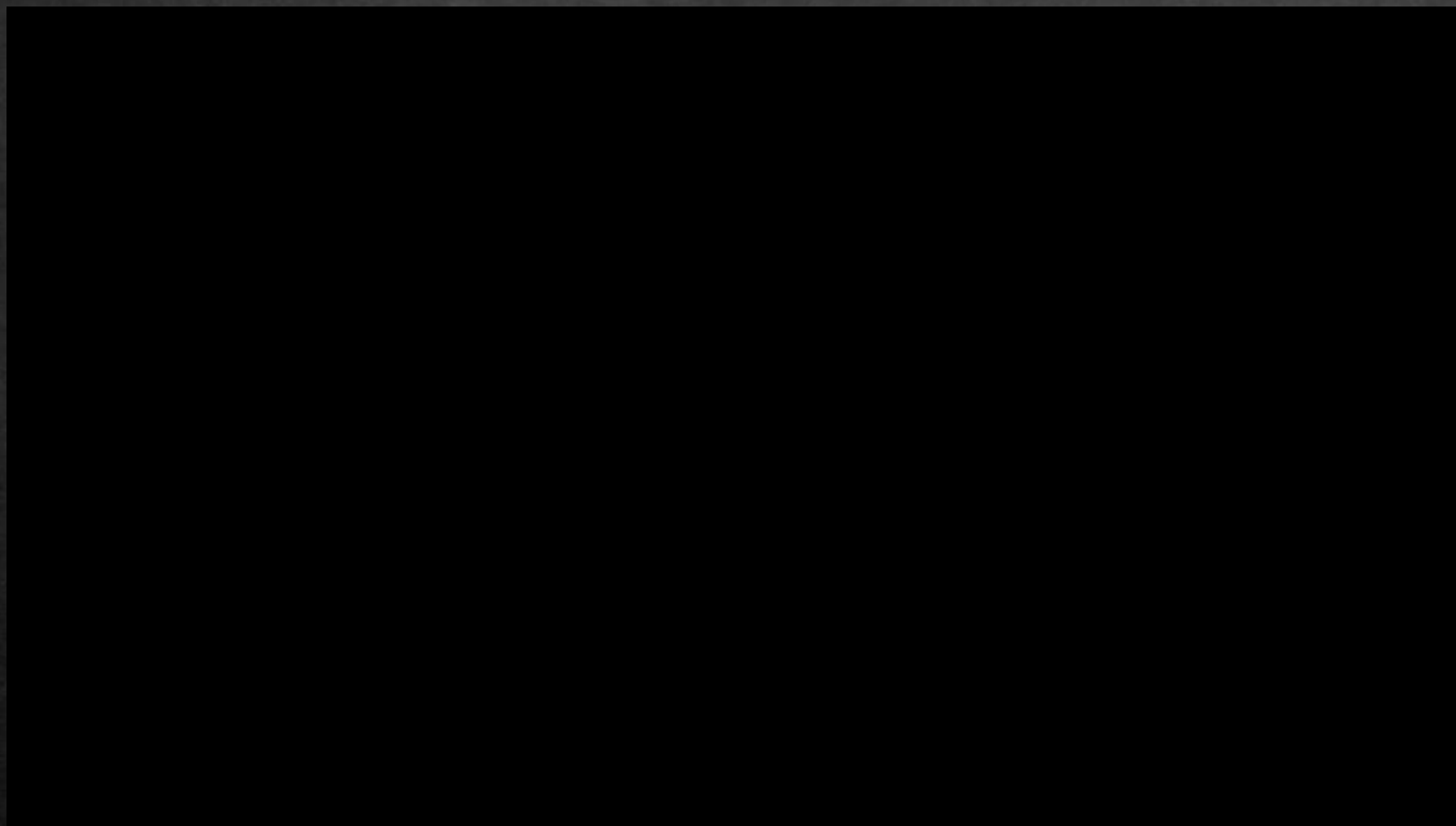
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*“The Elevator”*



# *'Symbols & Symbolism Explained'*





# Definition of Symbolism

A symbol is a concrete object that represents an abstract idea.

Consider the ideas represented by the following:

- a rose
- the color blue
- the number 3

# Definition of Symbolism cont.

A symbol can be an object, person, animal, or event to which a culture has attached importance. Different things symbolize different ideas for different cultures.

For example:

- The American flag
- Queen Elizabeth
- Mount Kilimanjaro

# Symbolism in Literature

Symbolism allows writers to develop and explore ideas in ways that engage and intrigue the reader.

For example: What could the apple symbolize in Snow White?

*“The Monkey’s Paw”*

