

**The Lorelei (page 910)** **Active Reading SkillBuilder****Interpreting Symbols**

A **symbol** is a person, a place, an object, activity or action, that stands for something beyond itself. A literary symbol takes on meaning within the context of the work in which it occurs, and may have more than one meaning.

Identify people, places, objects, or actions in "The Lorelei" that you think might have symbolic meaning. List them in the chart below. Describe qualities of each. Then note what each symbol might represent.

Person, Place, Object, Activity, or Action	Qualities	What the Symbol Might Represent
Lorelei		
Lorelei's song		
golden/gold (hair, comb, jewelry)		
the boat		
the boatman		

**The Lorelei (page 910)****Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Literary Ballad**

"The Lorelei" is a **literary ballad**, a poem by a known writer who imitates the style of an anonymous **folk ballad**. Compare the characteristics of a folk ballad on the chart below with what you've learned about the literary ballad "The Lorelei." Determine to what extent "The Lorelei" conforms to, or varies from, typical folk ballad style. Record your findings in the chart, including an example where applicable.

	<b>Folk Ballad</b>	<b>Characteristics of "The Lorelei"?</b>
<b>1</b>	brief narrative poem originally intended to be sung	
<b>2</b>	made up of four-line stanzas	
<b>3</b>	contains repetitions of lines or stanzas, wording style may vary slightly	
<b>4</b>	recounts a single dramatic or tragic episode	
<b>5</b>	contains supernatural elements	
<b>6</b>	includes dialogue	
<b>7</b>	implies more than it actually tells	

**The Lorelei (page 910)****Selection Open-Book Test**

**A.** Three characteristics of a folk ballad are provided below. Write “yes” if these characteristics are present in the literary ballad “The Lorelei.” Write “no” if they are not. If you answer yes, describe how, by giving examples from the text. (10 points each)

	<b>Folk Ballad Characteristics</b>	<b>Present in “The Lorelei”?</b>
1.	made up of four-line stanzas	
2.	includes dialogue	
3.	recounts single dramatic or tragic episode	

**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page.  
(5 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A literary ballad is
- written by a single author.
  - originally intended to be sung.
  - composed by an unknown author.
  - passed down orally.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In the poem, who or what is the Lorelei?
- the narrator or speaker
  - the boat
  - the girl singing on a mountain
  - the song the girl sings

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In one of the stanzas of "The Lorelei," the narrator speaks in the first-person. What is the first line of that stanza?
- "I cannot explain the sadness"
  - "The air grows cool in the twilight"
  - "More lovely than a vision"
  - "—At last the waves devoured"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What happens to the boatman after hearing the song?
- He is blind to everything but the girl.
  - He cries out.
  - His boat is overcome by waves.
  - all of the above
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following images from "The Lorelei" appeals to the senses of sight and hearing?
- "The peak of a mountain sparkles"
  - "The wonderful melody reaches / A boat"
  - "Her golden jewelry glistens"
  - "She combs her golden hair."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What word or form of the word is repeated four times in the poem?
- comb
  - glisten
  - gold
  - sparkle

**C.** Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of "The Lorelei." (20 points each)

- Find at least three things (objects, persons, places, or activities) in "The Lorelei" that symbolize something beyond themselves. Discuss what may be represented by the symbols, and why you think so in the context of the story.
- Name four of the seven elements of a folk ballad, other than the three that appear in question **A**. Tell whether or not the elements you listed appear in the literary ballad "The Lorelei." Give an example from the text of each.

**D. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

In your opinion, can love lead to madness and destruction, as it does in "The Lorelei"? Why or why not?