

A glowing lightbulb is the central focus, set against a blue background with faint circuit patterns. The lightbulb is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The background features a large, faint circular shape and several circuit-like lines with nodes.

MORALS AND WHY WE PUT THEM IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

CREATIVE WRITING II

LESSON

- The lesson of a story is the message (or theme) that the reader learns while reading the story
- The theme is the main idea presented in the story
- Example:
 - The Lesson of the story “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” is that liars will not be rewarded; even if they are telling the truth because no one will believe them.

MORAL

- a person's standards of behaviour or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do (right vs. wrong)
 - In literature, the moral tends to be the message that is conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story.
 - The moral may be left to the reader to determine for themselves or may be explicitly relayed in a maxim (a short statement expressing a general truth or code of conduct).
- Example:
 - The moral from the story of King Midas
 - One should never be greedy in life, because the fruits of greed do not guarantee happiness in the future

PARABLE

- A parable is a short and simple story that teaches a moral or religious lesson.
- Quite often, parables have animal characters
- In the New Testament, these were the stories told by Jesus to convey his religious message
- Examples of Parables:
 - “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”
 - “The Ant and the Grasshopper”
 - “The Fox and the Grapes”
 - “The Prodigal Son”
 - “The Emperor’s New Clothes”
 - “The Tortoise and the Hare”

ALLEGORY

- a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one
- See it as a story within a story.
- It has a “surface story” and another story hidden underneath.
- For example, the surface story might be about two neighbours throwing rocks at each other’s homes, but the hidden story would be about war between countries

- Examples of Allegory:

- *The Scarlet Letter*

- Allegory focuses on legalism, sin & guilt

- *The Lord of the Flies*

- Looks at how every human has an impulse towards both civilisation and savagery

- *Animal Farm*

- Political allegory against socialism

- *The Pilgrim’s Progress*

- An allegory on the Christian journey to redemption

WHY ADD MORALS TO STORIES?

- Handing down wisdom through stories is the oldest form of teaching
- It helps communicate important moral lessons and provides children guidance on how to handle different situations
- These lessons can cover everything from culture and behaviour to recognising right from wrong
- But the stories need to be written in a way that the child can choose what is good vs. bad rather than just being told something is good or bad.
- It was also realised early on (18th and 19th century) that these lessons were more effective if they were entertaining