

Sample From Outline to Essay Paper

Symbols are tools writers use to comment on things going on around them. This gives them the ability to tell two stories at once: both a fictional tale of their creation and a description of their faith, their friendships or their community. Moby Dick is one novel that is full of symbols.

The book's greatest symbol is Captain Ahab, who represents the madness of Romantic ambition. The Romantics believed in expression and emotion, believing this passion would allow them to conquer obstacles of religion, economy, distance, or even nature itself.

Ahab lets his emotions rule him to the point where he thinks—on the third day of the chase—that he has become like God. “But Ahab never thinks; he only feels, feels, feels,” he shouts from his whale boat. “That’s tingling enough for mortal man! to think’s audacity. God only has that right and privilege” (337). Experienced readers even recognize a link to the temptation of man in the Garden of Eden found in the Bible.

Ahab also put a lot of faith in individualism, which celebrated those who defied conformity. On the third day, Ahab realizes that the ship has passed Moby Dick in the night, and he turns *The Pequod* around to face his obsession one last time. Starbuck wonders why Ahab would take such a difficult course to attack the whale a final time. “Against the wind he now steers for the open jaw,” he says (339).

Another symbol found in the book is *The Pequod* itself, which is destroyed by the whale moments before Ahab himself is dragged to the depths. It is a community of individuals gathered from the far corners of the world for the purpose of this hunt. The harpooners all come from different cultures: Polynesian, Native American, African American. The harpooner named “Parsee” is even from the country of India. This represents that America was, even then, a diverse country. This “ship of state” was single-mindedly pursuing its manifest destiny to become a supreme nation “from sea to shining sea” (video).

There is also the thought, expressed by Starbuck, that the ship can be turned around before its destruction (342). I think that Starbuck is the conscience of this book—his is the voice that Melville uses to warn his fellow Americans that a collision

Thesis: Moby Dick is full of symbols.

1. Captain Ahab represents the madness of Romantic ambition.
 - a. He let his emotions guide him: “But Ahab never thinks; he only feels, feels, feels; that’s tingling enough for mortal man! to think’s audacity. God only has that right and privilege.” (337)
 - b. He represented individualism by steering *The Pequod* against the wind on the third day: “Against the wind he now steers for the open jaw,” murmured Starbuck to himself.” (339)
2. *The Pequod* represents America, hellbent for destruction.
 - a. It was a ship of many races: white, Indian, African-American, and Polynesian (video)
 - b. Starbuck still hopes to turn the ship around at the last minute to avoid the white whale (342).
3. The flag of *The Pequod* represented the rampant nationalism and expansionism of the United States.
 - a. Even as the ship is sinking, Tashtego desperately tries to keep it nailed to the mast. His last act as the ship sinks is to hammer it fast (344).
 - b. A seahawk is nailed to the flag & mast as it goes under, which reminds one of the American Eagle on the presidential seal.

Conclusion: Therefore, Melville wanted to express his frustration with where the United States was going in 1851.

Rubric for the Outline-to-Essay

	4	3	2	1
Outline	A descriptive 5-2s outline uses quotes and details to arrange the writer's ideas.	A 5-2 outline supports a thesis with supports and specific details.	A partially complete 5-2 outline may be missing quotes, details, supports or a conclusion.	Supports are missing or there is no thesis.
Content	The paper uses quotes and specific details to demonstrate the writer's knowledge.	The paper uses details to support the ideas.	Details and supports used in the paper fail to support the thesis or contradict other statements.	An organized argument is largely missing from the paper.
Transition	In expanding the paper from the original outline, sentences and clauses explain details and provide transition between ideas/paragraphs.	The paper bridges details with explanations or transitional sentences.	The paper simply lists the details without explaining or putting them into a coherent argument.	The paper makes no effort to explain connections between the ideas in the paper.
Use of Sources	Sources are identified in both the 5-2 and the written essay, and they are punctuated correctly.	Sources are identified in both the 5-2 and the written essay for all outside details. The paper uses quotes and punctuates them correctly.	Sources may be missing from some of the details in the essay. Quotes may be punctuated erratically.	No effort is made to cite sources in the written essay.
Grammar	There are no grammar mistakes in the paper.	Only a few grammar mistakes are evident.	The poor grammar makes it difficult to fully understand the writer's ideas.	There are so many spelling and grammar mistakes, that it is difficult to understand the writer's ideas.

Name: _____