

# Symbolism

**Symbolism:** Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense. Many poets used symbolism to deepen the meaning of their poems. Here is an excerpt from William Blake's "Ah Sunflower." In it, Blake refers to life cycle and uses sunflowers to represent humankind and that they desire everlasting life.

Poem Example:

## **Ah Sunflower**

Ah Sunflower, weary of time,  
Who countest the steps of the sun;  
Seeking after that sweet golden clime  
Where the traveller's journey is done;

Where the Youth pined away with desire,  
And the pale virgin shrouded in snow,  
Arise from their graves, and aspire  
Where my Sunflower wishes to go!