

# O pioneers! essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Nonetheless, through the symbolic corn stocks, orchard tree, and the protagonist, Catcher helps the readers gain an insight to the important themes and relationships among the major characters in her novel. First of all, Alexandra Bergsten, the protagonist of the story, clearly symbolizes individualism, the struggle against conformity, and the pioneer spirit that Catcher wants to convey to her readers.

Alexandra struggle to retain her individuality. Instead of succumbing to society pressure to conform can be seen through her illnesses to introduce new crops and agricultural technology to her land. In an argument with her brothers, she says, " You all laughed at me when I said our land here was about ready for wheat, and I had to raise three big wheat crops before the neighbors quit putting all their land in corn" (127). Instead of following the crowd, Alexandra prefers to follow her own heart, even if it means miming under the ridicules of others.

This also clearly shows the pioneer spirit that Catcher expresses through Alexandra. Unlike her brothers and the others who struggle to live as pioneers, she can feel " the future stirring" and the potential of her land, allowing her to successfully fulfill her own as well as her father's dream (54). Secondly, Catcher symbolizes the destined-to-doom love between Marble Sabbath and Emil Bergsten through the corn stocks Emil thinks about after Madame's wedding.

The description of the two ears that grew out from the same corn seed greatly contrasts Emil's and Madame's love life; for " the grains of one shot up joyfully into the light, projecting themselves into the future [while] the

grains from the other lay till in the earth and rotted; and nobody knew why” (122). Unlike Madame, Emil knows he could never marry the woman he loved because Marie is already married. Thus, just like the rotting corn ear, their love for one another can only lead to disaster and not a blissful future.

On the other hand, the white mulberry tree in the Showboat’s garden symbolizes both the innocence of Maria’s and Email’s love as well as the brevity of this relationship.

This orchard tree, which is a short-lived tree species, reflects the love teen Mane and Emil since they both tragically die after Frank, Maria’s husband, shoots them in chapter 5 of part four after seeing the couple lying under the tree. Furthermore, the white color of the mulberries also represents the innocence of their love.

When IVR discovers the dead couple lying beneath the orchard, he notices “the darkened mulberries,” which Catcher uses to show the loss of innocence (201). Thus, as seen through these examples, Catcher incorporates symbols in her novel to take her story up a whole new level. It allows her to convey or enhance certain 1 OFF to the plot and characters better as a result of this deeper understanding, making the story more attractive in general.

In conclusion, the masterful usage of symbolism by Catcher helps her enhance the plot and themes of her story.

Through the character, Alexandra Bergsten, Catcher conveys to the readers the important themes of individuality and pioneering while the symbolic corn

stocks and white mulberry tree augment the innocent yet tragic love that is briefly shared between Emil and Marie.