

Symbolism in “The Scarlet Ibis”

A study of symbolism in “The Scarlet Ibis” adds to a deeper understanding of the short story.

Directions: Fill in the chart below. In the left column is written a symbol from “The Scarlet Ibis.” In the middle column write a specific example from the story that includes the symbol. In the right column explain the significance of the example

Symbol	Specific Example	Explanation
The Scarlet Ibis	In addition to being in the title of the story, there’s this example: “Sadly, we all looked back at the bird. A scarlet ibis! How many miles it had traveled to die like this, in our yard, beneath the bleeding tree.”	(This is a total spoiler alert!) The scarlet ibis is a symbol of Doodle. Both come a long way, overcome much, and die a lonely death. The description of Doodle and the bird show more similarities. There is an obvious deep connection between the two as exemplified by Doodle’s behavior after the bird’s death.
Red		
The Barn Loft		
The Clove of Seasons		
The Grind Stone		