

### Identifying Motifs

Motif, subject, and theme are commonly used terms in our English classrooms. A **motif** can be defined as a recurring object, idea, structure, or image found in the details of a work. Often, an author will use repetition or synonyms to elicit a particular motif. Several motifs may be used in a single work. When looked at as a whole, motifs help to reveal the subject of a work and lead to understanding the theme(s). Motifs can also be found by examining character. An author can establish a pattern of character actions and reactions to elicit a particular motif. A subject unifies a work's motifs into a single word or phrase and is often considered a main topic or main idea of a work. While literary pieces contain several subjects, it is important to note that each subject should be supported by several motifs.

In simple terms, specific examples or comments that continue to reoccur throughout a text may be considered a motif. This helps the reader better understand various themes that the author is trying to get across to the reader. Fill in this chart with motifs that have been noticed in the reading. Notice the bottom two rows are blank, you will determine two examples of motifs you have personally noticed.

Challenge or Mystery	General Consensus	Was it True or False?	Actual Answer	Christopher's Opinion
Math Problems (Chapter 101)				
Fairies in the Pictures (Chapter 139)				
Letter from his Mother (Chapter 149)				

**Put It All Together:** What might the author be saying about perceptions of truth and then the reality of truth? Consider patterns found in the chart and Christopher's observations. Answer in at least one full paragraph (5-7 sentence) on the back of the sheet with textual evidence as support.