

LESSON  
**31**

## RETEACHING WORKSHEET

## COPYMASTER

**Symbol and Symbolism**

**Review:** A **symbol** is a person, place, object, or action that stands for something beyond itself. Symbols quickly communicate rich ideas. The use of symbols in literature or other art forms is called **symbolism**.

**Directions:** First, **read** the boxed fable by Aesop. Use the reading to **write** an answer to each question.

One hot summer day, a weary fox padded down a dusty road, desperate for food and drink. He had traveled for miles without finding so much as a berry to nibble or a puddle of water to sip from.

Suddenly, a beautiful aroma filled the air. The fox sniffed and sniffed, his mouth watering in anticipation. Then he looked up. Several feet above him, trailing along a trellis, was a vine full of lovely, plump, juicy grapes.

The fox jumped up, but could not reach them. Then he backed up, took a running start, and leaped as high as he could. Still, the grapes remained out of reach. Again and again, he tried, with no success.

Finally, exhausted and faint from his efforts, the fox gave up and went on his way. “Oh, well,” he sneered, “no great loss. I could tell those grapes were sour anyway.”

1. What do you think the grapes in the story symbolize? Give reasons for your response.

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2. Based on the fable, what do you think it means to accuse someone of having a “sour grapes” attitude? Give reasons for your response.

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