

SYMBOLS IN *ARCADIA*

TASK: Fill in the gaps in the below table that correlates the major themes and ideas with the symbols present in the play. Symbols can sum up the meaning of a performance, sometimes on a subconscious level. They can be expressed through through the visual imagery of language, movement, gesture, objects, design and staging, helping reinforce the meaning of the whole experience.

THEME/IDEA	SYMBOL
The Butterfly Effect	The out of tune piano playing, performed first by Thomasina and then by Gus
Knowledge	The jam in the rice pudding that cannot be 'unstirred'
The end of the Enlightenment age of thinking. Classicism to Romanticism	Lightning the turtle and the culmination of objects on the long table
The realisation that the world will slowly turn cold and die out	Thomasina waltzing with Septimus at the end of the play who are then joined by Hannah and Gus