

## Task for *Vertigo*

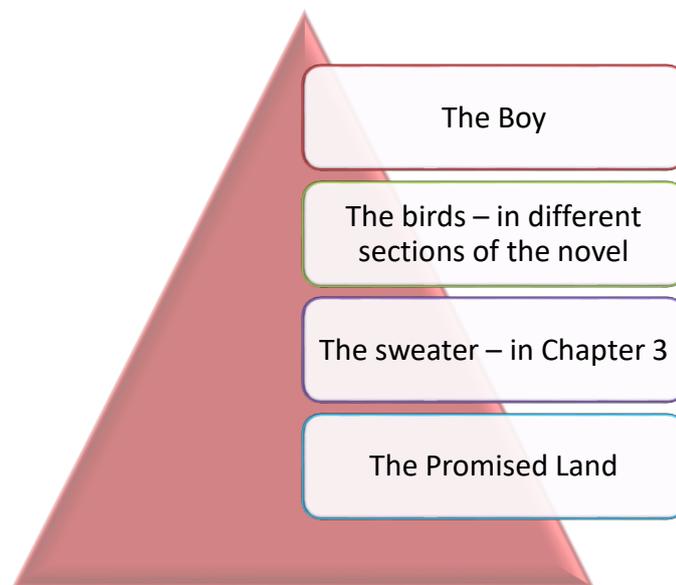
### Language

#### 1. Symbolism

Use of a symbol that represents something else, particularly in relation to a quality or concept developed and strengthened through repetition. For example, freedom can be symbolised by a bird in flight in both verbal and visual texts.

[NSW K-12 syllabus definition](#)

- a) Consider the significance of the symbolism identified below. What does the symbolism reveal about the characters? What other symbolism can you identify?



#### 2. Imagery (NSW syllabus definition) and Juxtaposition

Imagery: The use of figurative language or illustrations to represent objects, actions or ideas.

Juxtaposition: The placement of two or more ideas, characters, actions, settings, phrases or words side-by-side for a particular purpose, for example to highlight contrast or for rhetorical effect.

[NSW K-12 syllabus definition](#)

- a) How is imagery used to convey a sense of place?  
b) How is parallel narrative and juxtaposition used to show the commonality of human suffering?

Page	Examples of Imagery	How it conveys a sense of place
75	<p><i>She misses her house, its many rooms; the wide veranda; the great glittering expanse of the lagoon; the feeling of gliding across the water in their canoe. And she misses the she-oaks with their wispy canopies that seem to hum and vibrate in the heat.</i></p>	<p>How do the two pieces of imagery here convey the beauty and the terror of the landscape?</p>
115	<p><i>The noise of the wind is infernal; within its incendiary metallic roar he can hear the ferment of the trees, their hiss and cackle as they combust into a firestorm.</i></p>	
66	<p><i>The American soldiers have dragged a dead civilian in off the road, where they shot him, and onto her small paved terrace, behind a high wall covered in flowering jasmine.</i></p>	
67	<p><i>Now the camera pans to a bloodied Iraqi soldier who is sitting in the middle of the road. His shredded skin flayed from him by the blast of an explosion.</i></p>	

<p>65</p>	<p>Luke's reading of Treve's account of Palestine:</p> <p><i>What an unedifying spectacle it is to see the worshippers along the way, 'Possessed by a delirium of adoration that is morbid and pitiable. They dropped down before the sacred spots like felled cattle. They kissed the stones and moaned and muttered like creatures filled with dread.'</i></p>	<p>How does Lohrey use imagery to capture the suffering of individuals in different times but similar places? Consider the <b>parallel narratives – historical and the present</b> – as well as the juxtaposition of suffering and grief that is a pertinent theme in this text.</p>
<p>36–7</p>	<p>After the boy sits with them in the canoe, Luke starts to have the dreams – Freudian.</p> <p><i>He dreams of a tidal wave that sweeps in from the ocean and submerges the settlement in a depth of clear green water. But this isn't a nightmare; it's a benign dream, a dream in which he swims beneath the sunlit surface like a water baby. And the boy is there, swimming alongside.</i></p>	
<p>69–70</p>	<p><i>Alan is standing at the edge of the grassy path, beside the body of a dead swan...It's a deflating sight: the twisted black carcass, the slash of white feather down its middle...the crimson beak lying bright against the sandy stubble of the track.</i></p>	<p>In nature, the confrontation of one's mortality is ever-present. Lohrey uses the symbolism of dreams as well as the reality of stark death images to convey the fear that is simmering under the surface. How does the imagery foreshadow the events that occur in the novel after this?</p>