

Telling Your Story with Symbols

Briefly describe the story you are going to tell.

When I was 10 years old, I visited Yosemite with my class. We spent a week in tents and hiking. This was the first time I camped and spent time in the outdoors. I loved it! This experience changed me. It started a lifelong love of nature, hiking, and environmentalism. After living in a major city my entire life, I felt a closer connection to the land and felt part of a larger system. I felt bonded to the Earth and a need to protect it.

Think about the symbols you saw in Terrence Guardipee’s contemporary ledger art. What symbols will you use to tell your visual narrative, and what do those symbols represent in your story? Choose two symbols that represent action in your story, two that represent how you were feeling, and two that represent larger themes from your life (e.g. family, faith, identity,...).

Type	Symbol	What It Represents
Action	Backpack	Hiking in the outdoors and feeling a connection to the land
	Tent and tree	Sleeping in the outdoors
Feeling/Emotion	Open circle	Feeling a sense of vulnerability
	Sun with rays	Feeling a sense of wonder and awe
Larger Themes	Maze	Finding a new sense of self within a new place
	Earth	Environmentalism; taking care of our home

Which three symbols will you want to highlight in order to emphasize their importance? For each, explain why it is important to the story you are telling.

Tent: Sleeping in a tent in the outdoors made me vulnerable and open to my new environment.
Maze: Feeling disoriented, I tried to find a new sense of self within this scary and larger place.
Earth: The outcome of the experience is a lifelong dedication to environmentalism and protecting the only home we have.