**Motifs**

**Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop and inform the text’s major themes.**

• A thematic element in a poem or story that is repeated in some memorable way, sometimes to the point of creating a pattern.

• A motif could arise through a symbol, an image, a stylistic feature, diction choice, or a line of dialogue, as long as it is repeated and points to a theme of the story.

• Authors use motifs to help the audience see the message of a work of literature; we tend to think in patterns, and repetition is a good way to appeal to pattern thinking.

• Of course, some authors will point to motifs in more subtle ways than others (such as the style used to represent things instead of the things themselves).

“Repetition is an important principle in every artistic pursuit from music to painting to literature. It gives you another layer of meaning to work with and can add a level of symbolic value to your seemingly casual description, dialogue, or action.”

“**Motif is the palette you use to convey the world of your story and its underlying meaning”** (“thewritepractice.com”).

Question to ask: How does the use of this motif help readers gain new insight about this theme/topic?

Motifs found in *Night*

Night Loss of faith

Indifference/apathy False sense of security

Fire Optimism

Dehumanization