

“Totem” by Thomas King – Symbolism Chart

Name: _____

This story is an example of an allegory, which is a story that uses symbols to represent something else. In “Totem” there are characters, objects, events, and locations that represent other things, which adds to the meaning of the story. Identify what each object, character, event, or location represents using the chart.

Object, Character, Event, or Location	What does it represent
Southwest Alberta Art Gallery and Prairie Museum	
Totem poles	
Different sounds the totem poles are making	
“Seaviews” exhibit	
Museum Staff	
Basement	
Totem pole is stuck when Larue and Jimmy try to move it	
“Government assistance”	
The workers ignoring the singing	
Other:	