



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Using Allegory in Creative Writing
August 12, 2026

1. In your own words, what distinguishes an allegory from a story that simply uses symbolism?

2. The text suggests starting with a clear thesis or theme (the “tenor”). How specific should that idea be before you begin drafting?

3. What makes a strong “vehicle” for an allegory? Can you think of story worlds that naturally lend themselves to layered meaning?

4. How can a writer maintain consistent symbolic mapping without becoming mechanical or predictable?

5. The study guide warns against heavy-handedness. What are signs that an allegory has become too obvious or preachy?

6. Why is it important that the surface story work independently of the hidden meaning?

7. The text describes writing “vertically as well as horizontally.” What might that look like in practice when drafting or revising your work?