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**“Through the Tunnel” Symbolism and Character**

When you enter a tunnel, you plunge into darkness. At a certain point in your progress, a shaft of light appears, signaling the end of the tunnel is in sight. People call this beacon “the light at the end of the tunnel.” This expression can also be used figuratively – the light at the end of the tunnel may be a personal breakthrough after a period of doubt or trial. Jerry is a child torn between dependence on his mother and the desire to be grown-up. In the spaces below, record behavior Jerry exhibits that you think shows maturity or his struggle to be independent. Then, note behavior that you think is childish or indicates Jerry’s dependence on his mother. (Keep in mind that Jerry is only eleven years old.)

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| **Evidence of Jerry’s Maturity/Independence****\*Include the page number\*** | **Evidence of Jerry’s Immaturity/Dependence****\*Include the page number\*** |
| “I’d like to go and have a look at those rocks down there…once he saw that his mother had gained her beach, he began the steep descent to the bay” L 21, L 36 p. 356 | “Contrition sent him running after her. And yet, as he ran, he looked back over his shoulder at the wild bay; and all morning, as he played on the safe beach, he was thinking of it.” L 13-14 p. 356 |
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**Symbolism –** Concrete object, event, person, or place that represents or stands for an idea or concept.

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| **Passage from the Story** | **Symbol/Meaning** |
| “And yet, as he ran, he looked back over his shoulder at the wild bay; and all morning, as he played on the safe beach, he was thinking of it” (lines 16-18). | Symbol: Wild Bay; Safe BeachMeaning: Wild Bay: Maturity, freedom, independence, danger Safe Beach: Immaturity, safety, security |
| “After they had dived and come up, they swam around, hauled themselves up, and waited their turn to dive again. They were big boys – men, to Jerry” (lines 78-81). | Symbol: Older boysMeaning:  |
| “He could see the hole. It was an irregular, dark gap; but he could not see deep into it. … He knew he must find his way through that cave, or hole, or tunnel, and out the other side” (lines 189-191; 202-203). | Symbol: Meaning:  |
| “It was a torment to him to waste a day of his careful self-training, but he stayed with her on that other beach, which now seemed a place for small children, a place where his mother might lie safe in the sun” (lines 222-225). | Symbol: Meaning:  |
|  | Symbol: Meaning: |
|  | Symbol: Meaning: |

Theme: