

Extended Metaphors

Bananafish	Seymour/Soldiers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start off ordinary → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start off ordinary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go into hole, behave like pigs • Peculiar (strange) habits • Tragic life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldiers are displaced and sent to war • Must do terrible things and live in terrible conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat a ton of bananas → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe forced to kill people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get so fat they're trapped in the hole → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatized by war experience, emotionally trapped in war, youth/innocence is gone, will never be the same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They die of bananafever → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldiers' illness/death → PTSD • Foreshadows Seymour's suicide

Bananafish	Muriel/Superficial people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start off ordinary → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start off ordinary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go into hole, behave like pigs • Peculiar (strange) habits • Tragic life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed to materialistic things; exposed to suffering and pain of adulthood • Grow greedy and self-centered → focus on looks, clothes, self-improvement, attention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat a ton of bananas → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want more and more
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get so fat they're trapped in the hole → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They die of bananafever → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Death" = emptiness of life; nothing real or genuine to live for

What draws Seymour to Sybil?

- He receives positive attention and affection from her
- Playful relationship, no serious issues
- He can be himself with her
 - Takes off his bathrobe in front of her
 - Feels safe, like she won't judge him

What does Sybil represent?

- INNOCENCE
- She hasn't yet been ruined by society and adulthood
- War has taken Seymour's youth and innocence
- Sybil's a reminder of what's good and pure in the world

What's with the feet?

"The young man suddenly...kissed the arch" of Sybil's foot (24).

- Him kissing her foot shows how precious innocence is

"I have two normal feet and I can't see the slightest God-damned reason why anybody should stare at them" (26).

- He feels like an outsider, different from everyone else because he can "see more" than they can about what's really important in life because of his tragic experiences