

AN ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS IN NOVEL *THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY* BY MATT HAIG

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Abstract

Language is a part of our life, we live in a sea of languages and most of our interactions are done using language. Language is a symbolic system in which words are associated with objects, ideas, and action.. The objective of the study is to analyze the symbols in *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. The data in this study is qualitative. In conducting this research, a researcher used Carl Jung's theory of archetypal image, as described in a book by in a book by Guerin (2005).The fourteen symbols: water, sun, color, circle, serpent, number, the archetypal woman, the demon lover, the wise old man, the trickster, garden, tree, desert, and mountain. The resercher is done by classifying the semiotic elements, namely the symbols. In the novel *The Midnight Library* finds 14 symbols based on the result of the analysis data. The circle symbol appeared 75 times in this novel. It can be concluded that in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig there are 14 symbols and the frequently used symbol is circle.

Keywords: Symbols, Archetypal image, *The Midnight Library*.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a part of our life, we live in a sea of languages and most of our interactions are done using language. Language is a symbolic system in which words are associated with objects, ideas, and actions by agreement so that a rose by any other name will smell good. When we know a language, we can speak and be understood by others who know that language. Linguistics also has a theoretical framework or method that can be categorized as a scientific method, in this case the scientific method for human and social studies. Macrolinguistics, as defined by Lyons through Kridalaksana in Kentjono, focuses on studying language in relation to external factors. It encompasses interdisciplinary fields like phonetics, sociolinguistics, and more. Semiotics, the study of signs and symbols, delves into how meaning is conveyed through various senses. Symbols, such as words or gestures, are crucial for communication and bridging different concepts. This research analyzes symbols in the novel *The Midnight Library*, where the protagonist explores alternate lives in a magical place. The story touches on philosophical ideas like existentialism and mental health, emphasizing self-acceptance and happiness. By analyzing the symbols used by author Matt Haig, the research aims to provide insight into the deeper thematic elements of the novel. This study seeks to explore the significance of symbols within *The Midnight Library* to enhance understanding of its narrative and philosophical underpinnings. The objective of this research is to analyze the symbols and the symbols that frequently appear in *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

According to C. Jung (2005), archetypes play a central role in dreams, art, myths and legends. There are Archetype images. It likes water (sea, river), sun, colours (red, green, blue, black, white), circle, serpent, numbers (3, 4, 5, 7), archetypal woman (good mother, terrible mother, soul mate), the demon lover, the wise old man, the trickster, Garden, Tree, Desert, Mountain. This means that there are so many symbols in the archetypal image.

This research is limited to discussing the archetypal image, especially in terms of symbolism. The researcher will classify the example of a symbol using an archetypal approach. The symbol is a symbol according to Carl Jung which can be found in *A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature* by L. Wilfred L. Guerin.

These previous studies will be used as evidence for this study. The first, a research study is Esti (2019) with entitled Analysis Of Symbols In The Novel *The Wizard Of Oz* By L. Frank Baum: Archetypal Apparoch that analyzes archetypal symbols in L. Frank Baum's novel *The*

Wizard of Oz through the lens of Carl Jung's theories. It identifies various archetypes and symbols, such as the Wise Old Man and the circle, emphasizing their significance in conveying themes and character development. Second, an article Rehan (2023) entitled A study of symbolism in Josh Malerman's *Bird Box*. The research is a qualitative research method and using Frederick William Dillistone's symbolism theory. The results of the research Josh Malerman's *Bird Box* use various symbols like birds, blindfolds, and the river to delve into themes of fear, survival, and human connection. Through these symbols, the narrative gains depth, prompting readers to contemplate fear's nature and the significance of safeguarding what is valued.

Third, a journal Igo (2020) entitled A Study of Symbols in Oliver Bowden's *Assassin's Creed Underworld*. The study examines the symbols associated with characters in Oliver Bowden's *Assassin's Creed Underworld*, highlighting various symbols like Tiger, Scale, Ocean, and more. These symbols are used to represent different qualities and ideas of the characters in the novel. The research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on an intrinsic analysis of the symbols within the characters. Fourth, an article Asmanijar, Waluyo, Rohmadi (2021) entitled The Meaning of Religious Value Symbols in the Novel *Api Tauhid* by Habiburahman El Shirazy: Charles Sanders Pierce's Semiotic Study. The research is discuss the religious value symbols depicted in the novel *Api Tauhid* by Habiburahman El Shirazy through the lens of Charles Sanders Pierce's semiotic study. The analysis delves into symbols like sujud in gratitude, tayamum, akhlaq (morals), iktikaf, gratitude, and husnuzan (positive thinking), emphasizing how these values are portrayed in the literary work.

Fifth, a journal Wuriy (2021) entitled Symbolism in the novel *The Old Man and The Sea* written by Ernest Hemmingway. The research paper delves into the symbolism present in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*, focusing on the characters and their symbolic representations. Qualitative research methods and content analysis are employed to explore the various symbols in the novel and their significance to the characters, particularly emphasizing the symbolism related to the main character, Santiago. There are similarities between this research and the research above. The similarity is the symbols contained in the literary works studied. To the best of the researcher's knowledge, there has been no research about symbolism with Carl Jung's archetype theory in *The Midnight Library*. Therefore, this research uses Carl Jung's archetype image theory in *The Midnight Library*.

METHOD

This study was descriptive qualitative research, and the data were presented with a content analysis method. According to Aminuddin (1990: 5) concluded that the descriptive method Qualitative means analyzing the form of description, not in the form of numbers or data coefficient on the relationship between verification. Qualitative research involves anthology. The data collected in the form of vocabulary, sentences, and pictures have meaning. The object of this study is a symbol in the novel *The Midnight Library*.

The primary data source of this study is the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Secondary data source is journal, thesis and dissertations. For this research, the researcher used the theory by Carl Jung to analyze the archetype in the novel. Data analysis techniques in this study refers to the model developed by Miles Huberman (1992) there are three stages of data analysis, word reduction, data presentation, and withdraw conclusion. The researcher reads the entire contents of the novel and understands the story. The researcher notes the sections that contain symbol especially the symbol in the archetype image and draw conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section will show the analysis symbol from *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Here are the results of the research related to the symbols in novel *The Midnight Library*:

1. Water

The first finding is the water symbol which consists of two main sub-symbols, namely the ocean and the river.

a. Ocean

Her dad used to subscribe. She remembered being enthralled by an article about Svalbard, the Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. She'd never seen a place that looked so far away. She'd read about scientists doing research among glaciers and frozen fjords and puffins. Then, prompted by Mrs Elm, she'd decided she wanted to be a glaciologist. (Haig, 2020, p. 15)

The ocean as a symbol of maternal life and spiritual mystery emphasizes the protagonist's feeling of returning to his original condition, which is a condition full of possibilities and mysteries like the vast ocean.

b. River

Nora stared at the books around her. 'So, are you saying I only have pawns to play with?'

'I am saying that the thing that looks the most ordinary might end up being the thing that leads you to victory. You have to keep going. Like that day in the river. Do you remember?' Of course she remembered. (Haig, 2020, p. 194)

The river as a symbol of death and rebirth in the novel emphasizes the transformation process experienced by the protagonist.

2. Sun

But the sun was out now, as she neared the station, and it seemed that she had been looking at the place wrong all these years. As she passed the statue of prison reformer John Howard in St Paul's Square, with the trees all around and the river just behind, refracting light, she marvelled at it as if she were seeing it for the first time. It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see. (Haig, 2020, p. 267)

The sun as a creative symbol applies in a personal and spiritual context. The characters in the novel encounter many inflection points in life that are laden with new realizations and deep thoughts. The symbol of the sun is also related to the passage of time and life, where time is an important element in *The Midnight Library*. Every choice Nora makes affects the passage of time and determines the plot. Through the symbol of the sun, the novel illustrates that time is an element that keeps running and draws the journey of human life from beginning to end.

3. Color

Mrs Elm crouched down and took a book from the lowest shelf to her left. The book was one of the darker shades of green. She handed it to Nora. It was a lot lighter than The

Book of Regrets, even though it was a similar size. Again, there was no title on the spine but a small one embossed on the front, precisely the same shade as the rest of the book.
' (Haig, 2020, p. 40)

Through conceptual and scientific descriptions, the color green is often associated with awakening and regeneration (Jung, 1980). This is seen in the character of Nora who repeatedly experiences emotional awakening in her search for an ideal life. By choosing this symbolism, Matt Haig is paying close attention to the character's internal changes that are relevant to Jung's theory of the archetypal in literature. Jung (2005) explains that color has an important role in dreams, art, myths and legends that provide a clearer picture of the human experience.

4. Circle

Nora was standing outside in crisp, clean air. But unlike in Bedford, it wasn't raining here. 'Where am I?' she whispered to herself. There was a small row of quaint stone terraced houses on the other side of the gently curving road. Quiet, old houses, with all their lights off, nestled at the edge of a village before fading into the stillness of the countryside. A clear sky, an expanse of dotted stars, a waning crescent moon. The smell of fields. The two-way twit-twoo of tawny owls. And then quiet again. A quiet that had a presence, that was a force in the air. (Haig, 2020, p. 42)

She arrived back in the Midnight Library. But this time she was a little away from the bookshelves. This was the loosely defined office area she had glimpsed earlier, in one of the broader corridors. The desk was covered with administrative trays barely containing scattered piles of papers and boxes, and the computer. (Haig, 2020, p. 120)

Circles also appear in the narrative when Nora experiences the various possibilities of her life, each ending in the same place: back at the library (Guerin, 2005). This indicates an endless cycle, where every beginning is an end and every end is a beginning, creating an unbroken circle of life. These are some of the circle symbols. They represent the cycle of Nora's life. The symbol of the circle in *The Midnight Library* plays a very important role in depicting the transformation of the main character and the narrative function of the novel as a whole. Through the use of this symbol, Matt Haig manages to convey a profound message about eternity, choice, and entanglement present in the cycle of human life. This is also in line with previous findings that highlight the importance of the circle as an archetypal symbol in literary works, reinforcing the relevance of Carl Jung's archetypal theory in the context of symbolic analysis.

5. Serpent

As she spoke, Mrs Elm's eyes came alive, twinkling like puddles in moonlight.

'Between life and death there is a library,' she said. 'And within that library, the shelves go on for ever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be different if you had made other choices . . . Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?'

'So, I am dead?' Nora asked.

Mrs Elm shook her head. 'No. Listen carefully. Between life and death.' She gestured vaguely along the aisle, towards the distance. 'Death is outside.'

'Well, I should go there. Because I want to die.' Nora began walking.

But Mrs Elm shook her head. 'That isn't how death works.'

'Why not?'

'You don't go to death. Death comes to you.'

Even death was something Nora couldn't do properly, it seemed. (Haig, 2020, p. 28)

In "The Midnight Library", the serpent symbol appears in various constellations that are not directly expressed, but inspire deep thoughts about life-death duality and spiritual transformation. The presence of the library as the space between life and death, provides a metaphor in line with the serpent symbol as the gatekeeper between the material and spiritual worlds. The serpent symbol in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig functions as a symbol of power, transformation, and wisdom in an archetypal context. Through the character of Nora Seed, Haig is able to present the symbol to illustrate the complexity of life and existential choices.

6. Number

Three simple words containing the power and potential of a multiverse.

I AM ALIVE.

And with that, the ground shook like fury and every last remnant of the Midnight Library dissolved into dust. (Haig, 2020, p. 279)

In the context of the story, the number 3 often appears as a symbol depicting the trilogy of life processes: birth, death and rebirth. The use of this number not only strengthens the narrative but also shows the spiritual journey of the protagonist who is trying to find the meaning of his life. The numbers in *The Midnight Library* can be understood as archetypal symbols that imply various aspects of life, such as existence, experience, and transformation. Based on Jung's (1980) explanation, archetypal symbols have a central role in dreams, art, myths and legends.

7. The Archetypal Woman

a. Good Mother

She realised that you could be as honest as possible in life, but people only see the truth if it is close enough to their reality. As Thoreau wrote, 'It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.' And Ash only saw the Nora he had fallen in love with and married, and so, in a way, that was the Nora she was becoming. (Haig, 2020, p. 250)

In the narrative of the novel *The Midnight Library*, the Good Mother symbol can be seen in the character Nora Seed, who in some versions is like a mentor and provides moral guidance

and presents emotional support to the protagonist. This can be attributed to Carl Jung's theory that archetypes have a central role in dreams, art, myths and legends (Jung, 1980). The Good Mother represents the principles of life and growth, very much in line with Nora's character who helps the protagonist through her difficult times with hope and support.

b. Terrible Mother

Dan had wanted kids. Nora didn't know. She'd been petrified of motherhood. The fear of a deeper depression. She couldn't look after herself, let alone anyone else.

'Still in Bedford, then?'

'Mm-hm.'

'Thought you'd be one who got away.'

'I came back. My mum was ill.'

'Aw, sorry to hear that. Hope she's okay now?'

'I better go.'

'But it's still raining.'

As Nora escaped the shop, she wished there were nothing but doors ahead of her, which she could walk through one by one, leaving everything behind. (Haig, 2020, p. 17)

In the novel *The Midnight Library*, this archetype can be encountered in characters and situations that attempt to hinder the protagonist from achieving inner peace or success in his life. The Terrible Mother archetype provides negative protective symbolism that is much more often associated with the fears and anxieties faced by the protagonist throughout her narrative.

c. Soulmate

Nora was comforted to know she had no inclination whatsoever to see what Dan was doing with his life. Instead, she felt very grateful to be with Ash. Or rather, and more precisely: she imagined she was grateful, because he was lovely, and there were so many moments of joy and laughter and love. Ash did long shifts but was easy to be around when he was in, even after days of blood and stress and gall bladders. (Haig, 2020, p. 246)

In *The Midnight Library*, the soulmate can be thought of as a character who manifests the ideal potential and harmonious relationship between the protagonist and other characters. This archetype reflects the main character's hope and imagination of a perfect relationship and the real support she encounters throughout the story.

8. The Demon Lover

In chess, as in life, possibility is the basis of everything. Every hope, every dream, every regret, every moment of living.'

Eventually, Nora won the game. She had a sneaky suspicion that Mrs Elm had let her, but still she was feeling a bit better.

'Okey-dokey,' said Mrs Elm. 'Now, time for a book, I reckon. What do you say?'

Nora gazed along the bookshelves. If only they had more specific titles. If only there was one that said Perfect Life Right Here . Her initial instinct had been to ignore Mrs Elm's question. But where there were books, there was always the temptation to open them. And she realised it was the same with lives. (Haig, 2020, p. 201)

From a detailed perspective, the demon lover is symbolized through characters and situations that bring instability and fear, driving Nora, the protagonist, to confront her innermost fears and anxieties. These challenges precipitate crucial turning points in her journey towards self-realization and growth. The confrontation with the demon lover archetype necessitates a deeper insight into the dark recesses of Nora's psyche, compelling her to reframe her perceptions and attitudes towards life's inherent challenges. Jung (1980) posits that archetypes, while universal, are subject to interpretation within specific contexts. The demon lover in *The Midnight Library* can thus be interpreted as a catalytic force, serving both as an adversary and a necessary evil that ultimately propels Nora towards redemption and enlightenment. This duality underscores the transformative potential inherent in facing one's inner demons. Nora's journey, consequently, is a passage through the dark night of the soul as a confrontation with her demon lovers facilitates a profound metamorphosis.

9. The Wise Old Man

'Why is it always just one person that we see? In the place. The library. Whatever.'

Hugo shrugged. 'If I was religious, I'd say it was God. And as God is probably someone we can't see or comprehend then He – or She – or whichever pronoun God is – becomes an image of someone good we have known in our lives. And if I wasn't religious – which I'm not – I would think that the human brain can't handle the complexity of an open quantum wave function and so it organises or translates this complexity into something it understands. A librarian in a library. A friendly uncle in a video stor. (Haig, 2020, p. 156)

In the context of *The Midnight Library*, Hugo Lefèvre gives Nora an important understanding that every choice she makes reflects who she really is and how she wants to live her life. This shows how the symbol of the wise old man serves not only as a guide but also as a catalyst for personal introspection and transformation. Furthermore, Hugo Lefèvre as the symbol of the wise old man also shows another aspect of this archetype as a savior and protector.

10. The Trickster

'What's happening?' Mrs Elm's expression stiffened and her posture straightened, her chin retreating a little into her neck. She took a step closer to Nora and clasped her hands together. 'It is time, my dear, to begin.'

'If you don't mind me asking – begin what?'

'Every life contains many millions of decisions. Some big, some small. But every time one decision is taken over another, the outcomes differ. An irreversible variation

occurs, which in turn leads to further variations. These books are portals to all the lives you could be living.'

'What?'

'You have as many lives as you have possibilities. There are lives where you make different choices. And those choices lead to different outcomes. If you had done just one thing differently, (Haig, 2020, pp. 30-31)

The Trickster's presence is seen in the character of Mrs. Elm, the librarian in the midnight library. On the surface, Mrs. Elm appears to be a wise and guiding figure; however, her role is more complex. She embodies the Trickster's dual nature of being both a guide and a disruptor. Mrs. Elm facilitates Nora's journey through the multiple lives she could have lived, but she also presents challenges and tests that force Nora to confront her deepest fears and regrets. This duality aligns with Jung's (1980) description of the Trickster as both a helper and a provocateur.

11. Garden

Yet there, right there in that garden in Cambridge, under that dull grey sky, she felt the power of it, the terrifying power of caring deeply and being cared for deeply. Okay, her parents were still dead in this life but here there was Molly, there was Ash, there was Joe. There was a net of love to break her fall. (Haig, 2020, p. 256)

The Garden symbol in this novel appears in several story settings that represent protection and beauty, as well as being a picture of the life Nora wants. Garden in this case implies an ideal condition that becomes her ultimate goal, even though the path taken to get there is full of twists and turns and uncertainties. Nora in *The Midnight Library* also experiences many emotional and spiritual 'rebirths' through traveling in the various alternative lives offered by the library. This reflects the archetypal essence of the Garden as a place where the process of regeneration and acceptance of the new self takes place. The Garden in the novel's narrative not only denotes a physical place, but as a metaphor for Nora's stages of emotional growth.

12. Tree

'But then the tree – the tree that is our life – develops branches. And think of all those branches, departing from the trunk at different heights. And think of all those branches, branching off again, heading in often opposing directions. Think of those branches becoming other branches, and those becoming twigs. And think of the end of each of those twigs, all in different places, having started from the same one. A life is like that, but on a bigger scale. New branches are formed every second of every day. And from our perspective – from everyone's perspective – it feels like a . . . like a continuum. Each twig has travelled only one journey. But there are still other twigs. And there are also other todays. (Haig, 2020, p. 116)

The tree symbol in the context of *The Midnight Library* can be interpreted as a symbol of growth and self-regeneration. Nora, the main character in this novel, goes through a life journey full of transformation and learning from various alternative realities. The tree, in this case, becomes a metaphor for Nora's life journey full of struggle, learning, and regeneration.

The tree also symbolizes Nora's resilience in facing life's problems and challenges, as well as her emotional and spiritual growth process.

13. Desert

'I hate the cold and wet,' added Mrs Elm, for emphasis. Mrs Elm had short grey hair and a kind and mildly crinkled oval face sitting pale above her turtle-green polo neck. She was quite old. But she was also the person most on Nora's wavelength in the entire school, and even on days when it wasn't raining she would spend her afternoon break in the small library. 'Coldness and wetness don't always go together,' Nora told her. 'Antarctica is the driest continent on Earth. Technically, it's a desert. (Haig, 2020, p.5)

The desert symbol which reflects spiritual aridity or spiritual dryness. This spiritual dryness refers to a condition where the main character feels a loss of direction and meaning in her life. In this novel, the desert is a visual representation of the feelings of isolation and emptiness experienced by the main character, Nora Seed. Nora feels separated from life and feels that nothing can provide meaning or satisfaction in her life, which is in line with the concept of desert as a symbol of spiritual death and nihilism. Jung (2005) in his theory suggests that the desert is a symbol of despair and loss of hope, which can be seen in how Nora feels there is no way out of her depressing life.

14. Mountains

In this life Nora was called Nora Martinez and she was married to a twinkle-eyed Mexican-American man in his early forties called Eduardo, who she had met during the gap year she'd regretted never having after leaving university. After his parents had died in a boating accident (she had learned, from a profile piece on them in The Wine Enthusiast magazine, which they had framed in their oak-panelled tasting room), Eduardo had been left a modest inheritance and they bought a tiny vineyard in California. Within three years they had done so well – particularly with their Syrah varietals – that they were able to buy the neighbouring vineyard when it came up for sale. Their winery was called the Buena Vista vineyard, situated in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, and they had a child called Alejandro, who was at boarding school near Monterey Bay. (Haig, 2020, p. 214)

The mountain symbol first appears in the novel as a setting where the main character, Nora Seed, faces major challenges in her life. The mountain here not only functions as a setting element, but also as a symbol that represents Nora's spiritual journey. In archetypal terms, mountains are often interpreted as a stopover for those seeking enlightenment or transformation (Jung, 2005). In this novel, the mountain becomes an important symbol that depicts Nora's aspiration towards a better life and her attempt to overcome her existential crisis. Nora's journey to the top of the mountain can be seen as a representation of a spiritual climb that takes a lot of time and effort. In mythology and archetypal psychology, mountains symbolize the ultimate goal of spiritual quest or enlightenment.

15. Midnight Library

The researcher analyses the symbol of the Midnight Library as an integral component representing the various philosophical and psychological concepts discussed in the novel. The first finding is that the Midnight Library serves as a symbol of choice and possibility. In the story, the Midnight Library is the place where the main character, Nora Seed, finds herself when she is on the brink of death. She is given the opportunity to browse through the many

possible lives she could have lived based on different choices she might have made. The library acts here as a symbol of freedom of choice and the opportunity to correct or review the life choices that have been made.

The shelves of the Midnight Library were quite still again, as if their movement had never even been a possibility.

Nora sensed they were in a different portion of the library now – not a different room as such, as there seemed to be only one infinitely vast room. (Haig, 2020, p. 64)

According to Carl Jung's theory, symbols such as the Midnight Library also serve as portals to self-actualisation or individuation. In the novel, the library itself becomes a place where Nora can explore different possible futures, where unfulfilled dreams and aspirations interact with a sense of regret and personal downfall. This process allows her to explore her multifaceted identity and evaluate the meaning of her life with a broader perspective.

Conceptually, that symbol of the Midnight Library represents the duality between determinism and freedom, reality and possibility, failure and positive outcome. It is a multifunctional place, a place of deep decision making and self-reflection, a place where Nora metaphorically dies many times before she truly comes back to life with a better understanding of who she really is and what her life really means.

Table 1. Number of Symbols in *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

Symbols	Number of symbols found
Water : Ocean	9
Water : River	8
Sun	12
Green color	10
Circle	75
Serpent	5
Numbers	32
The Archetypal woman : good mother	3
The Archetypal woman : terrible mother	5
The Archetypal woman : soulmate	3
Demon lover	7
The wise old man	3
The trickster	8
Garden	11
Tree	22
Desert	1
Mountains	3

The circle symbol, as one of the archetypes identified by Jung, has a deep and multi-layered meaning that is relevant to analyze further in the context of this novel. Judging from the table above, the circle is indeed a dominant and significant symbol in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* appearing 75. This symbol appears in various forms throughout the novel, reinforcing key themes related to the cyclical nature of life, the concept of eternal recurrence, and the interconnectedness of choices and outcomes. The following is an analysis of the use of the circle as a recurring symbol in the novel.

CONCLUSION

This research has identified the types of symbols contained in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig used the archetypal image theory conveyed by Carl Jung which categorized in a book by Guerin 2005 as a basic concept and framework of thinking. The discovered symbols include water, the sun, the color green, circles, serpent, numbers, tree, mountains, garden, desert, the demon lover, the trickster, the wise old man and the archetypal woman.

In this research, it was found that the circle symbol is very dominant in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig and plays an important role in depicting important concepts such as the cycle of life and rebirth. 75 circle symbols were found in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This symbol has been linked to Carl Jung's archetypal theory and is supported by previous studies showing that this symbol is often used in literature to depict character journeys and transformations.

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