



## LITERARY ANALYSIS

In literature, the quality of light can indicate more than a simple description of a setting. Generally, darkness has been used to symbolize negativity (-) and lightness has been used to symbolize positivity (+).

Let's study the use of light in *Big* by Vashti Harrison. Harrison used some light colors, like pink, white, and purple. Harrison also used some dark colors, like brown, gray, and black. Fill in the chart below with examples of how darkness and lightness were used in the story. An example is done for you.

Examples of Darkness	Examples of Lightness
The words around the girl on the swing are brown.	The girl says, "Help!" when she is on the swing and it is pink.

Now, review your chart with a friend. Mark each box with a plus sign (+) if it seems to represent something positive and a minus sign (-) if it seems to represent something negative. Do you notice a pattern? Was Harrison using traditional symbolic meanings of light and dark?

BE A LITERARY DETECTIVE! Pay attention to other stories you read. See if you can spot an example of darkness and lightness that uses the traditional symbolism of negative/positive in another text.