Connotation, imagery and symbol are used by composers to create additional meaning. This builds layered meaning as one idea may be represented as a symbol or through imagery or create connotation.

Symbols are pictures, colours or objects that represent something else, usually something abstract like an idea.

Connotation is an idea or feeling that we sometimes connect to a word. It suggests more than the word’s basic meaning.

Imagery invites an interpretation of an idea by engaging our senses (visual, auditory, olfactory, gustatory or tactile) and this may evoke an emotional reaction.