GOING FROM REPRESENTATIONAL/LITERAL REFERENCE TO SYMBOLIC, ICONIC, AND INDEXICAL REFERENCE

Our initial attempts to incorporate catalogued items will be on the purely representational side, or quite *literal*. How else might we approach the pictorial representation of such elements? Examine your more-or-less final sketch, and see if it is possible to include more elements, double up, or else weave into the illustration an element in a *representational/literal*, *symbolic*, *iconic*, or *indexical* way. Think about texture, pattern, shape, far background, details, reflections, etc.

Iconic: Makes reference to a represented object in a direct way. For example: a portrait, a cartoon, sound effects, a statue, etc.

Indexical: Makes reference to a represented object in an indirect way. For example: smoke, thunder, footprints, a shadow, flavors, a door bell ringing, or a photograph, etc.

Symbolic: Makes no reference to a represented object; must be learned as a socially constructed link. For example, letters of the alphabet, the number system, mathematical signs, computer code, punctuation marks, traffic signs, national flags, etc.

Gestalt: This German word means "pattern". It is used to define a theory of perception that maintains that the brain will always try to find pattern and order even when presented with random elements.
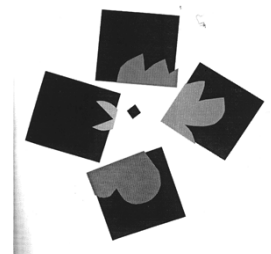
How are these different images reflective of the the above described semiotic notions of signs and symbols?

How much cognitive *distance* is there from the purely literal representation to what concept or idea is being conveyed or symbolized?

Which ones are directly representational?

Which ones are indirectly representational?

Which ones are indexical?

Which ones are symbolic?

Which ones rely on gestalt perceptive construction?

Which ones are a combination?