

Apples and Dahlias

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Section R

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Significance of
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Significance of
the Dahlia
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01

Apples in Arcadia





Common Connotations

Apples symbolize many ideas and events in literature, such as

- Education
 - Isaac Newton
 - Knowledge
- Lust and Temptation
 - Adam and Eve
 - Evil and Malice

All of these themes are present in *Arcadia* to some extent



Apples in the Text – Education

- Apples frequently appear during interactions between Septimus and Thomasina
 - Equation of the leaf
 - Isaac Newton
- Hannah, a scholar, often interacts with apples



Good
vs.
Bad
Knowledge



“Ah. The attraction that Newton left out. All the way back to the apple in the garden.”

—Valentine, pg. 100

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Apples in the Text – Lust and Evil

- Adam and Eve
 - Forbidden Fruit
- Thirst for knowledge → bad situations
 - Thomasina yearns to learn about sex



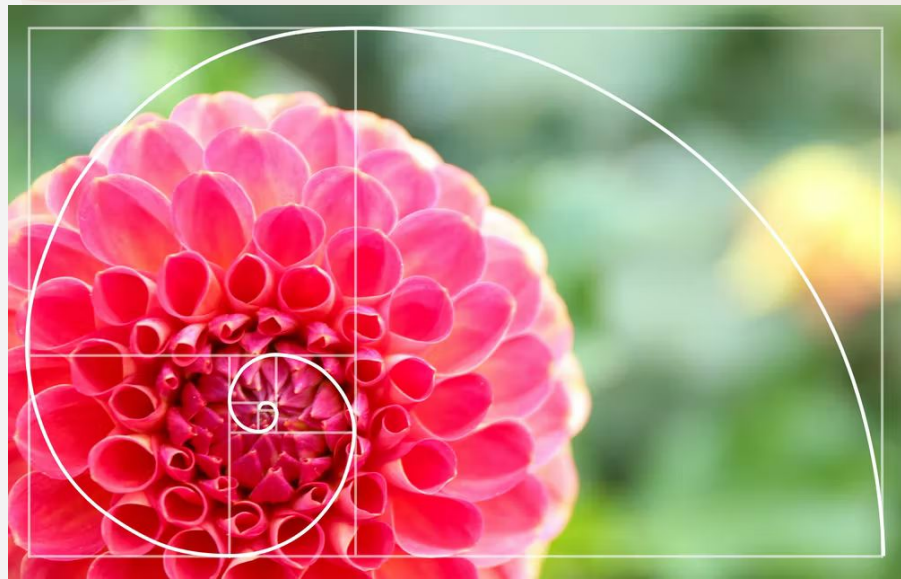
Apples in the Text – Transitions

- Gus is the first character to interact with an apple
- Throughout the novel, apples are used to transitions between the different time periods and characters
 - Their constant appearance allows for consistency throughout Arcadia



02

Dahlias in Arcadia



Observe!



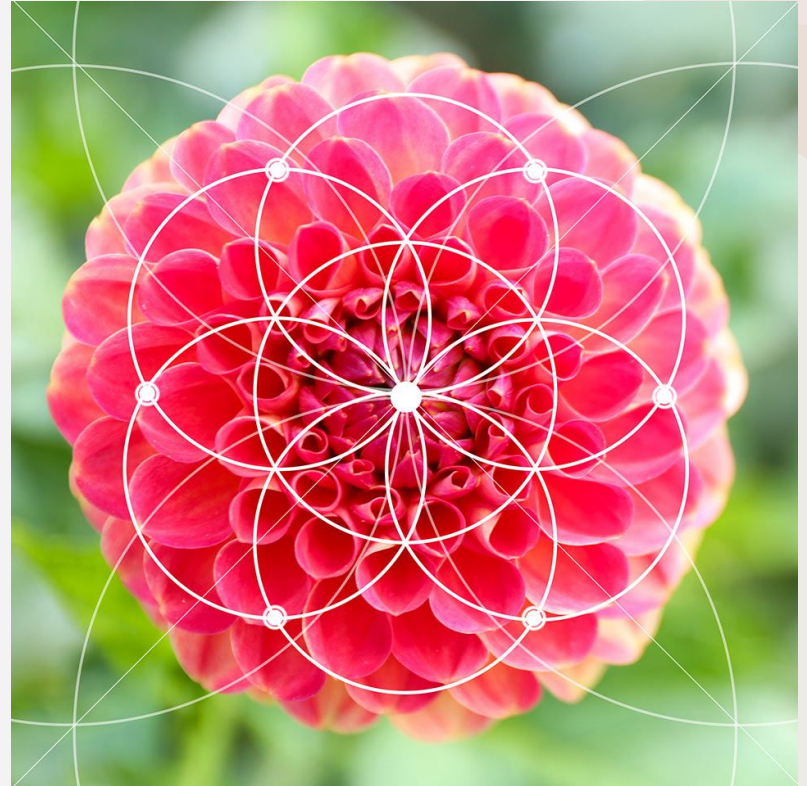
Common Connotations

- Orderly flowers with very geometric patterns
- Cyclical (intended word choice, just wait) patterns, repetitive
- Serene state of mind



Associations in the Text

- Dahlias introduced when Ezra Chater discovered them in South America
 - Bitten by a monkey and died same time he found the flowers
- Nature versus man-made gardens
- Chater's story describes the butterfly effect



“We must be thankful the monkey bit the husband. If it had bit the wife the monkey would be dead and we would not be the first in the kingdom to show a dahlia”

— Lady Croom, pg. 113

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The background features several overlapping circles and a thin, curved line in muted colors like light pink, beige, and light grey. The text is centered over this background.

Thank you!
Questions?

