

Q2.1 Epitome

Epitome means the embodiment of something—a characteristic, a state, an emotion, or an ideal. If your room is the *epitome* of cleanliness, it represents everything that means cleanliness to the person who declared it so.

Epitome comes from a Greek word that means “to abridge or cut.” It’s a long stretch from *abridge* or *cut* to *embodiment*, but you can think of it this way: If you have to abridge or cut an entire novel down to just one paragraph, what you’re left with is the single embodiment of the story, the one part that still transmits the meaning. In the same way, the *epitome* of cleanliness is the best representative of cleanliness after everything else has been cut.

You are the epitome of everything I have ever looked for in another human being. And I know that you think of me as just a friend, and crossing that line is the furthest thing from an option you would ever consider. But I had to say it.

—Ben Affleck playing Holden McNeil
in the movie *Chasing Amy*