

A Dictionary of Literary Symbols

This is the first dictionary of symbols to be based on literature, rather than “universal” psychological archetypes, myths, or esoterica. Michael Ferber has assembled nearly two hundred main entries clearly explaining and illustrating the literary symbols that we all encounter (such as swan, rose, moon, gold), along with hundreds of cross-references and quotations. The dictionary concentrates on English literature, but its entries range widely from the Bible and classical authors to the twentieth century, taking in American and European literatures. Its informed style and rich references will make this book an essential tool not only for literary and classical scholars, but for all students of literature.

MICHAEL FERBER is professor of English and Humanities at the University of New Hampshire. His books include *The Poetry of William Blake* (1991) and *The Poetry of Shelley* (1993).

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For Lucy

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I would be glad to hear from readers who have found particularly glaring omissions of symbols or meanings of a symbol, or any mistakes, against the possibility of a revised edition. I can be reached c/o English Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, USA.

Abbreviations

Bible

- AV Authorized Version (King James Version) of the Bible (1611). All quotations are from this version unless otherwise stated.
- NT New Testament. Quotations from the NT that are paralleled in more than one Gospel are cited from the first in which they appear (usually Matthew).
- OT Old Testament
- NEB New English Bible (1961)

Pindar

- Olymp.* *Olympian*
Pyth. *Pythian*
Isth. *Isthmian*
Nem. *Nemean*

Horace

Quotations from Horace are from the “Odes” or *Carmina* unless otherwise stated.

Ovid

- Met.* *Metamorphoses*

Apuleius

- Met.* *Metamorphoses* (or *The Golden Ass*)

Chaucer

- CT *Canterbury Tales* (Gen. Pro. = General Prologue, Pro. = Prologue)
 PF *Parliament of Fowls*
 TC *Troilus and Criseyde*

Spenser

- FQ *Faerie Queene* (Pro. = Prologue)
 SC *Shepherd's Calendar*

Shakespeare

- 1H4, 2H4 *King Henry the Fourth, Part One, Part Two*
 1H6, 2H6, 3H6 *King Henry the Sixth, Part One, Part Two, Part Three*
 2GV *Two Gentlemen of Verona*
 12N *Twelfth Night*
 AC *Antony and Cleopatra*
 AWEW *All's Well that Ends Well*

Abbreviations

AYLI	<i>As You Like It</i>
CE	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
Cor	<i>Coriolanus</i>
Cym	<i>Cymbeline</i>
H5	<i>King Henry the Fifth</i>
H8	<i>King Henry the Eighth</i>
JC	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
KJ	<i>King John</i>
Lear	<i>King Lear</i>
LLL	<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i>
MAAN	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
MM	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
MND	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
MV	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
MWW	<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i>
Per	<i>Pericles</i>
R2	<i>King Richard the Second</i>
R3	<i>King Richard the Third</i>
RJ	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
TC	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i>
Timon	<i>Timon of Athens</i>
Titus	<i>Titus Andronicus</i>
TS	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> (Ind. = Induction)
WT	<i>The Winter's Tale</i>

Line numbers for Shakespeare are keyed to the Riverside edition; they will not vary by much from any modern edition.

Milton

PL *Paradise Lost*

Shelley

PU *Prometheus Unbound*