

## **A Dictionary of Literary Symbols**

This is the first dictionary of symbols to be based on literature, rather than “universal” psychological archetypes or myths. It explains and illustrates the literary symbols that we all frequently encounter (such as swan, rose, moon, gold), and gives 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. For this new edition, Michael Ferber has included over twenty completely new entries (including bear, holly, sunflower, and tower), and has added to many of the existing entries. Enlarged and enriched from the first edition, its informed style and rich references 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), *The Poetry of Shelley* (1993), and *A Companion to European Romanticism* (2005).

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**Second edition**

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## 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*

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 Abbreviations
 

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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*