

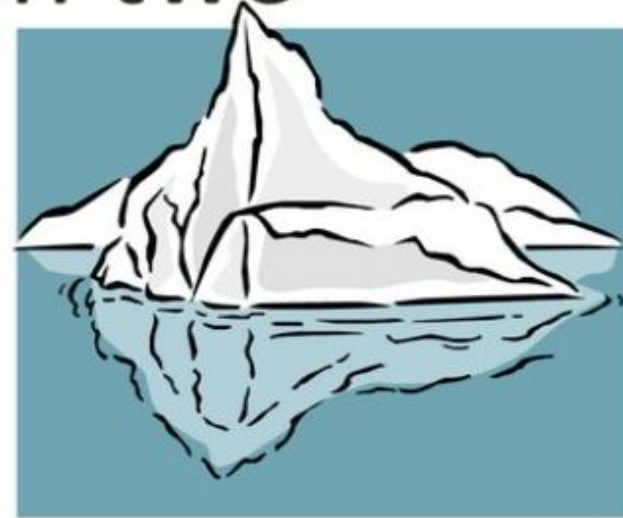
# Allegory (аллегория) and Personification (олицетворение)

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# What is an allegory?

For a story to be an allegory, it must be appreciated on two levels.

- The surface level  
(the story itself)
- The abstract level  
(the underlying meaning)



## *How do allegories work?*

- Allegories use SYMBOLS that work together to develop a deeper meaning,
- Allegories are often intended to teach a moral lesson or make a comment about goodness and depravity (evil-ness) or society.

## *Why allegories work?*

- Allegory does not become dated by the passage of years. Although the context may be difficult to understand, the underlying commentary on the world is timeless.
- An allegorical story can be applied to different times, people, or situations in the course of history.

**Allegory** is a device by which the names of objects or characters of a story are used in figurative sense, representing some more general things, good or bad qualities.

This is often found in fables (басни) and parables (притчи).

It is also a typical feature of proverbs, which contain generalizations ( express some general moral truths): *All is not gold that glitters* (= impressive words or people are not always really so good as they seem);



*Every cloud has a silver lining* (=even in bad situation we may find positive elements)



The meaning of the allegory is derived from the words Greek «allegoria», which means «Novography» (Иносказание).

In the history of literature there is a view that the first this method was invented and first applied by Aesop, an ancient Basnopian, and therefore sometimes such a reception is called «Aesopian language».

# Aesopian language

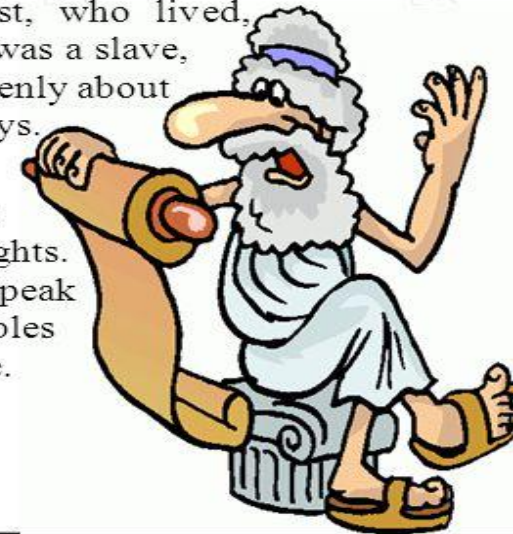


**Having a hidden meaning; a special type of cryptographic or allegorical writing used in literature, criticism, and journalism in order to circumvent censorship when such literary activity is denied freedom of expression.**



Aesop is a legendary ancient Greek fabulist, who lived, according to legend, in the VI century BC. He was a slave, so he didn't have a right to speak freely and openly about many things. It was a dangerous thing those days.

Aesop was forced to use circumlocutions in the form of a fable to express his thoughts. His tales were very popular. The ability to speak or express your thoughts in allegories, parables received the name of the Aesopian language.



An allegory is a story within a story. It has a “surface story” and another story hidden underneath. For example, the surface story might be about two neighbors throwing rocks at each other’s homes, but the hidden story would be about war between countries. Some allegories are very subtle, while others (like the rock-throwing example) can be more obvious.

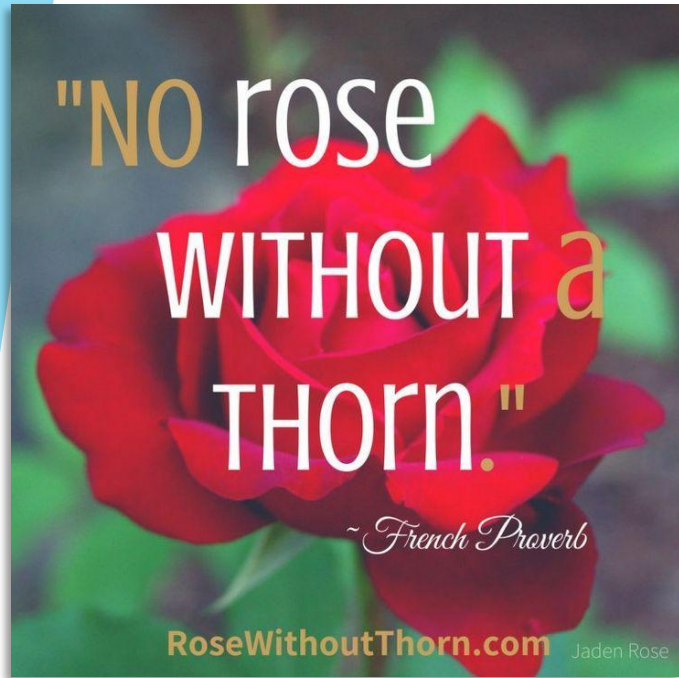
In most allegories, the hidden story has something to do with politics, religion, or morality — complex subjects that are difficult to understand directly. Many authors find it easier to think through these issues by translating them into allegories, which are easier to understand (and more fun to read) than dense philosophical arguments.



## The Importance of Allegory

Allegories deliver difficult messages in easy-to-read stories. That makes them extremely useful and expressive tools. So for centuries, human beings have used allegories to say things they couldn’t say any other way.

*There is no rose without a thorn* (=there are always disadvantages in the choice that we make)



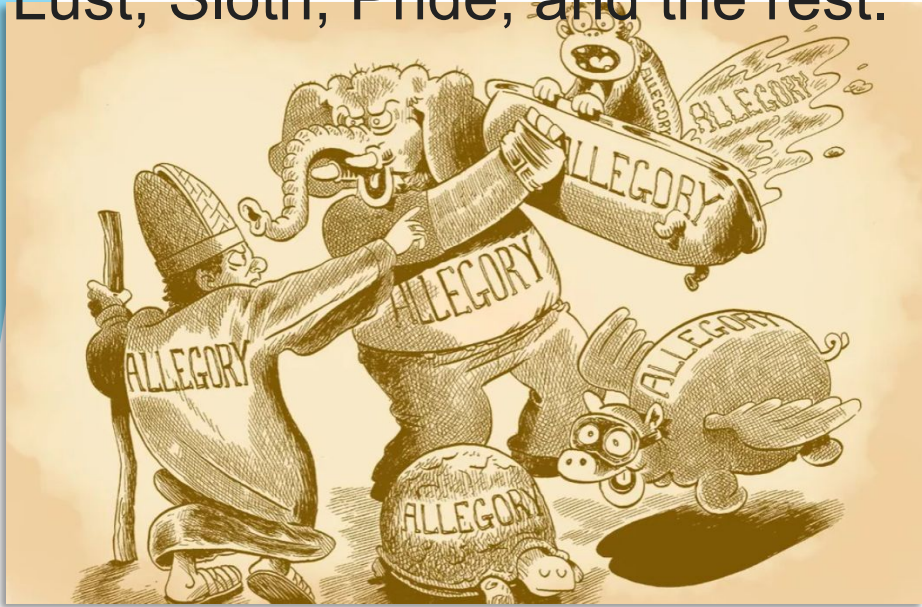
*Make the hay while the sun shines* (=hurry to achieve your aim while there is a suitable situation). Коси сено, пока солнце светит. Куй железо, пока горячо.



**“Make hay while the sun shines.”** ... When conditions are perfect to **get** something done, we can say, “It’s a good idea to **make hay while the sun shines.**” In other words, you are taking advantage of a good situation or of good conditions. You are **making** the most of your opportunities.



An allegory, in short, is not just another word for a metaphor. In essence, it's a form of fiction that represents immaterial things as images. It calls attention to what it's doing, typically by giving those images overtly thematic labels, like presenting the Seven Deadly Sins as a procession of people named Lust, Sloth, Pride, and the rest.



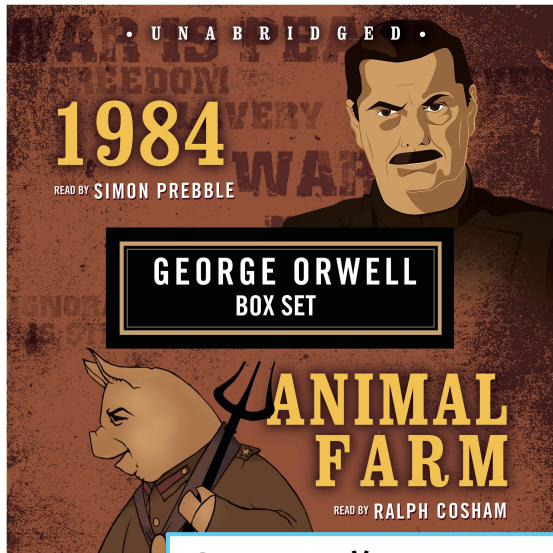
- The Dream - Kingdom of Morpheus.
- Death is the Hug of Hades.
- Impregnation is Fort Knox.
- Justice is Femida (Themis - goddess of justice)

Allegory is a story poem that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

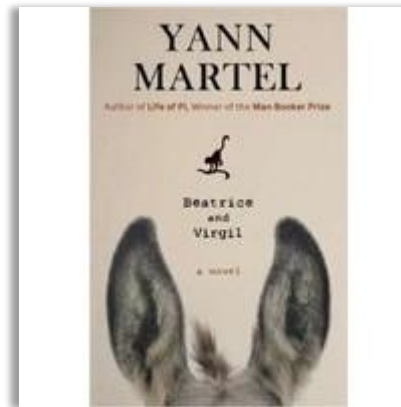
- The allegory of hope is the anchor;
- 
- allegory of freedom - broken chains;
- 
- The white dove is an allegory of world peace.

The beauty of literature is that it's jam-packed with [rhetorical devices](#). An author never needs to bluntly state their intended moral. Rather, they can express it through moving scenes, jarring dialogue, and inventive characters. Let's take a look at a few great **examples of allegory in literature**.

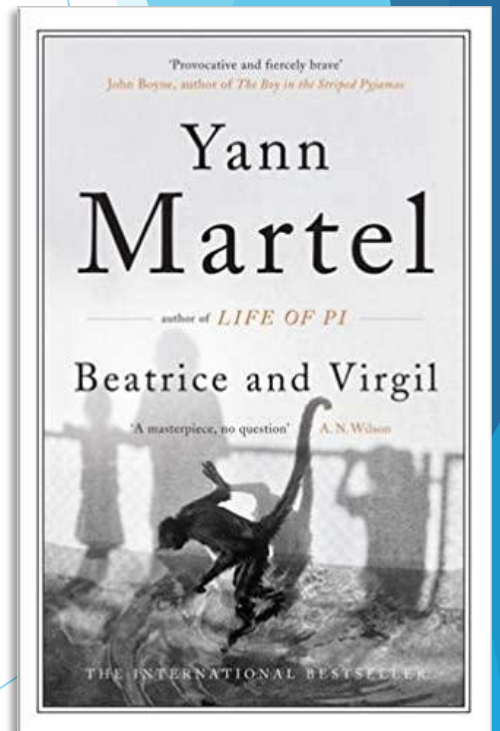
***Animal Farm*** by [George Orwell](#) is a political allegory pertaining to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the rise of communism. It outlines the different classes in society through the depiction of animals.



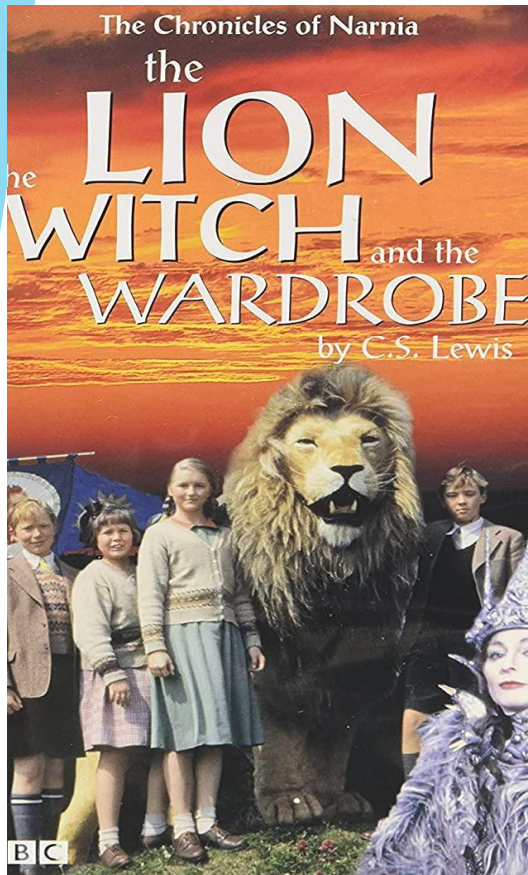
Скотный двор



***Beatrice and Virgil*** by Yann Martel is an allegory for the monumental pain and suffering experienced by victims of the Holocaust



***Faerie Queene*** by [Edmund Spenser](#) is a moral allegory where each character represents a virtue or a vice. Specifically, the Red-Cross Knight represents holiness, Lady Una stands for goodness and the one true faith, Una's parents symbolize the human race, and the dragon represents evil.



***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** by [C.S. Lewis](#) is a religious allegory. In it, we find that Aslan the lion represents Christ or God, the White Witch represents evil, and Edmund represents Judas as the betrayer.



## Allegory in Movies

- *X-Men*: mutants symbolize minorities, those with a handicap, and those who do not fit in with popular society



In *Avatar*, Pandora Woods represents the Amazon rainforest, a sanctuary from industry and development, which has no regard for nature but to pillage it for its bankable resources.



## *What is the purpose of using allegory?*

Writers use allegory to add different layers of meanings to their works. Allegory makes their stories and characters multidimensional, so that they stand for something larger in meaning than what they literally stand for. Allegory allows writers to put forward their moral and political point of views.

The functions of allegory pop up more often than we realize. If we can understand how allegory works, we can see that allegory, especially in satire, is one of the most commonly used and effective means of making social commentary for a wide audience and affecting change.

As a subtype of allegory we distinguish *Personification (олицетворение)*, by which human qualities are ascribed to inanimate objects, phenomena or animals:



Personification is a variety of metaphor, attributing human properties to lifeless objects, mostly to abstract notions such as thoughts, intentions, emotions, seasons of the year, or animals.

Personification is often represented grammatically by the choice of masculine or feminine pronouns for the names of inanimate objects, or by capitalization of these words.

## **Personification**

The sun shone brightly down on me as if she was shining for me alone.

Personifications are most often used in poetry.

### **Personification in poetry**

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are!

*(Jane Taylor)*

No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet  
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet.

*(Byron)*

How soon hath Time, the subtle thief of youth,  
Stolen on his wings my three and twentieth year!

*(Milton)*

## Why do writers use personification ?

*The purpose of this figurative language is to bring inanimate things to life to better explain them. Writers often use personification to make their writing more vivid and to have the reader understand the object or animal in a better way.*

In poetry, fables personification is often represented grammatically by choice of masculine or feminine pronouns for the names of animals, inanimate objects or forces of nature.



## Personification Example:

The **lonely** lighthouse  
**vigilantly** shined its light  
to **warn** ships away  
from its rocky coast.



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*Personification is giving human traits (qualities, feelings, actions, or characteristics) to non-living objects (things, colors, qualities, ideas)*

The wind  
whistled  
throughout  
the day.



The **leaves** danced their  
way through the lawn.



## ***Personification in Poetry and Books***

There are many examples of personification in literature. The first example is from [Carl Sandburg](#)'s "The Fog." In this poem, fog is given the human ability to sit and look.

*The fog comes  
on little cat feet.  
It sits looking  
over harbor(гавань) and city  
on silent haunches  
and then moves on.*



The following example is from James Stephens' "Check". In this example, night is given the human qualities of creeping and being silent.

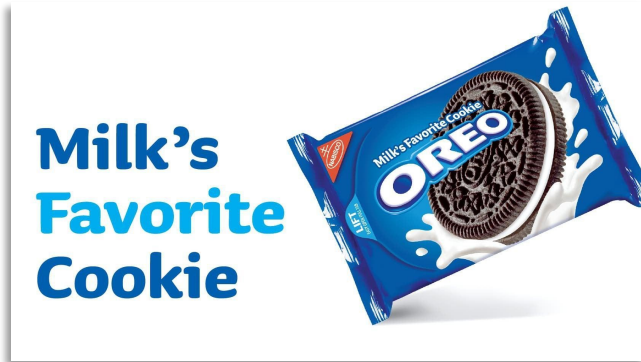
*The night was creeping on the ground!  
She crept and did not make a sound.*



## Personification in Advertising

Personification is commonly used in advertising. You will see examples both in print and in television commercials. The following are some examples.

*Oreo: Milk's favorite cookie - Oreo*



*Nothing hugs like Huggies - Huggies diapers*



*The car that cares - Kia*



## Task № 1.

1) The device by which the names of objects or characters of a story are used in figurative sense, representing some more general things, good or bad qualities is a

- a) **Allegory**
- b) Personification

2) In the history of literature the first basnopian who applied allegory was **Aesop**.

3) Aesopian language» is a

- a) **Special type of cryptographic or allegorical writing used in literature, criticism, and journalism in order to circumvent censorship when such literary activity is denied freedom of expression.**
- b) a particular style of poetry used in ancient times

4) Giving human traits (qualities, feelings, actions, or characteristics) to non-living objects (things, colors, qualities, ideas) is a

a) **Personification**

b) Allegory

c) Aesopian language.

5) «All is not gold that glitters» is an example of

a) **Allegory**

b) **Personification**

6) In what spheres are allegories commonly used? (several variants are possible).

a) **Politics**

b) **Religion**

c) **morality**

d) **fables (басни)**

e) **parables (притчи).**



- 7) *Lightning danced across the sky is an example of*
- a) *personification* (олицетворение)
  - b) *Allegory* (аллегория)



*Find the correct translation of the allegory.*

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>1 There is no rose without a thorn</i>  | → | 1 Куй железо, пока горячо       |
| <i>2 Make the hay while the sun shines</i> | → | 2 Нет розы без шипов            |
| <i>3 Every cloud has a silver lining</i>   | → | 3 Не все то золото, что блестит |
| <i>4 All is not gold that glitters</i>     | → | 4 Нет худа без добра            |

## Give the correct translation of the personification.

- The wind *howled* in the night. В ночи завывал ветер
- Lightning danced across the sky. В небе плясали молнии
- Rita heard the last piece of pie *calling* her name. Рита услышала как последний кусок пирога звал ее
- The avalanche *devoured* anything standing in its way. Лавина поглотила все , что стояло на ее пути.
- My house is a friend who *protects* me. Мой дом - это друг, который меня защищает.
- The moon *played hide and seek* with the clouds. Луна играла в прятки с облаками
- The camera *loves* her since she is so pretty. Камера любит ее за то, что она такая красивая
- The stairs *groaned* as we walked on them. Лестница скрипела, когда мы шли по ней.

10) Why writers use allegory?

- a) **To add different layers of meanings to their work**
- b) To help contextualize a story by referencing a well-known person
- c) **To put forward moral and political point of view.**

11) Why writers use personification ?

- a) *to make their writing more vivid and to have the reader understand the object or animal in a better way.*
- b) to make your subject more relatable to the reader or to make a complex thought easier to understand.