

Write a Short note on Shimei.

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"Absalom and Achitophel" (1681) is a famous satirical and ironical poem by John Dryden (1631-1700). Shimei appears as a symbolic character rather than a biblical figure. He represents Thomas Shadwell, a playwright and poet who was a contemporary rival of Dryden.

Shadwell was a Whig supporter and, in Dryden's portrayal, Shimei symbolizes a sycophant and opportunist. Shadwell aligns himself with Absalom (representing the Duke of Monmouth) against King David (representing King Charles II) and his legitimate successor Solomon (representing King James II).

Shimei/Shadwell is depicted as a character who flatters and supports Absalom's rebellion against King David. He hopes to gain favor and position in the new regime. This aligns with Shadwell's historical reputation as a writer who supported the Whig cause and was critical of the monarchy and royalists.

Features: Four features of this character are given below:

Betrayal: Shimei betrays King David by siding with Absalom, showing his lack of loyalty.

Ambition: Shimei's actions are driven by his desire for personal gain and status.

Manipulative Rhetoric: Shimei uses persuasive language to win support for Absalom.

Symbolic: Shimei represents political figures who undermine authority for personal gain, highlighting the dangers of political opportunism.

In short, these features portray Shimei as a complex and morally compromised figure in Dryden's allegorical poem.