

Medea Literary Device

Writer: Euripides | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Figures of Speech

- **Irony:** Definition: Irony occurs when the opposite of what is expected takes place. Jason tells Medea that by marrying Glauce, he is securing a better future for Medea and their children. The irony is that this marriage destroys both Medea's and Jason's families. Again, Medea softens Jason's heart by pretending that their children will deliver gifts. Jason believes Medea has changed. The irony is that these very gifts cause the deaths of Glauce and Creon.
- **Symbolism: Definition:** Symbolism is when an object, character, or place represents a deeper meaning or idea.
- **The Poisoned Robe and Crown:** Symbol of betrayal and revenge. With these gifts, Medea destroys Jason's new marriage.
- **The Children:** Though innocent, they suffer for their father's sins. As victims of Medea's revenge, they symbolize the tragic fate of a broken family.
- **The Chariot of Helios:** Symbol of Medea's divine power and the support of the gods. It elevates Medea to an almost superhuman level.
- **Medea herself:** Symbol of female strength, rebellion, and vengeance. She embodies both a loving mother and a bloodthirsty avenger.
- **Jason:** Symbol of patriarchal society and selfish ambition. Despite gaining everything through Medea, he ultimately loses it all.
- **The Chorus (Corinthian Women):** Symbol of the voice of ordinary women. They sympathize with Medea yet are horrified by her decision to kill her children. They represent society's moral dilemma.

Moral Lessons from Euripides's Medea

- Betrayal destroys families.
- Revenge consumes the avenger.
- Power without morality is dangerous.