

Troilus and Criseyde Literary Devices

Writer: Geoffrey Chaucer | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Symbols:

- **The Temple of Palladium:** The temple stands for fate and irony. Troilus mocks lovers here but later falls deeply in love.
- **Black Clothing:** Criseyde wears black clothes to show sadness for her father's betrayal. It also hints at future sorrow.
- **The Brooch:** Symbol of Love. Later, it shows the betrayal
- **The Chivalrous Knight:** Brave soldiers of that time
- **The Eagle:** Troilus
- **The Boar:** Diomedes
- **The Letter:** The Courtly Love
- **The Greek Camp:** Danger and Separation

Figures of Speech:

- **Allusion:** Chaucer frequently alludes to Greek and Roman mythology, such as the reference to Cupid, Venus, and the Furies, to deepen the thematic layers of the story.
- **Irony:** Troilus mocks other lovers in the temple. But he falls deeply in love with Criseyde shortly. This is an example of situational irony, where the outcome is opposite to what was expected.
- **Imagery:** Chaucer uses rich visual imagery to describe Criseyde's beauty and Troilus's longing. For instance, Criseyde's appearance is described in great detail, focusing on her black mourning dress, which reflects her inner sorrow.
- **Personification:** Fortune is personified throughout the poem as a controlling force and as the Antagonist.
- **Simile:** Troilus is compared to Mars, the god of war, when Criseyde sees him riding through the city, emphasizing his strength and heroism.

Moral lesson:

- Love is fragile and uncertain.
- Fate controls all beyond our will.

Lx Notes