

When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd Literary Device

Writer: Walt Whitman | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Symbols

- **Lilac:** The lilac flower is a symbol of love, mourning, and memory. The poet places lilacs on the coffin as a gesture of bidding farewell to the dead leader with love and respect.
- **Western Fallen Star:** This symbolizes the death of Abraham Lincoln. The falling of the star represents the fall of a great leader.
- **Hermit Thrush Bird:** This bird symbolizes the poet's deep grief and lamentation. Its song sounds like the cry of the poet's soul.
- **Coffin:** The coffin is a symbol of death and the funeral journey. It also represents the eternal farewell from human life.
- **Dark Mother (Death):** Whitman addresses death as the "Dark Mother." This presents death not as something fearful, but as a calm and eternal mother figure.
- **Chant of My Soul:** This symbolizes the poet's personal grief and emotion. The chant of the soul blends with the whole elegy of mourning.

Main Message

- Death is not an end, but a journey.
- Love and memory keep the dead alive.
- Nature heals human sorrow.
- Great leaders live forever in people's hearts.