

# Animal Symbols



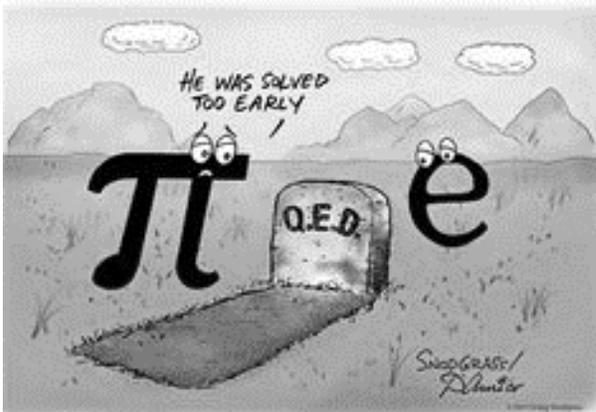
What do you think of when you see dark clouds, a flag, a dove, a lion, owl, fire and ice, various colors, a donkey and elephant? How about the emoticons popping up everywhere, signs on buildings and highways, that little blue twitter bird and a plethora of other electronic symbols? We might refer to some of these things as logos, but many are symbols. **A symbol is something used to represent, suggest, or expand something else. It's an object that represents ideas, significant meanings or messages.** Literature is full of symbolism, and we'll discover many powerful symbols in our reading. You will also be able to use symbolism in your writing. **But for now, we'll express ourselves using animal symbolism.**

Animal symbolism is common in all cultures, and some cultures use animals to represent different qualities. Because everyone has different qualities, some cultures mash up animals to tell a story about themselves. Totem poles are a good example among Native Americans; the Sphinx in Egypt is made up of different animal parts. I'm sure you can think of examples in other cultures. **And I hope you can then be inspired to create an entirely new animal symbol for yourself.**

On the next page is a list of some common animals and what qualities they are thought to represent. **Pick at least two to five different animals that represent qualities you feel describe you—both the inner and outer you. On a standard 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper draw (or use cut-up pictures) to create your unique animal. Give your animal symbol a name that incorporates your own name, and write a brief description of what the animal symbol represents about yourself...why you made the choices you did, why you used certain sizes, colors, parts of animals, et al as you constructed your animal symbol. If you wish, you could construct this animal symbol electronically and then print a copy.**

1. Alligator—stealth, survival
2. Ant—diligence, industry, community, remarkable strength
3. Bat—rebirth, longevity, joy, good luck
4. Bee—divine messenger, love, service, gathering, community
5. Bird—enlightenment, perspective, swiftness, prophetic knowledge
6. Buffalo—prayer, abundance, good fortune, healing
7. Butterfly—rebirth, transformation, the soul
8. Cat—feminine energy, mystical power, safe travel, wholeness
9. Cheetah—speed, focus
10. Coyote—trickster
11. Cricket—good luck charm, singing
12. Crow—sacred law, shape shifting, illusion
13. Deer—graceful gentleness, sensitivity, compassion
14. Dog—companionship, health, service, loyalty, protection, prosperity
15. Dolphin—joy, childlike play, helpfulness, harmony, intelligence
16. Dove—peace, innocence, love, kindness, gentleness, fidelity
17. Dragonfly—good fortune, magic, vision, dreams, luck, ancient knowledge, illusion
18. Dragon—wisdom, royalty, eternity, courage, strength, rain
19. Eagle—courage, spirit
20. Elephant—commitment, strength, astuteness
21. Fish—miracles, good luck and prosperity, foresight, magic
22. Frog—healing, cleansing, messages, health, honesty, purification
23. Giraffe—grounded vision
24. Goat—tenacity, endurance, safety, anti-evil talisman (the foot)
25. Hawk—messenger, strength, foresight, truth
26. Hippopotamus—emotional depths
27. Horses—power, stamina, speed, communication, a black horse with a white forehead marking is lucky
28. Ladybug—delight, trust
29. Lion—strength, courage
30. Monkey—benevolence, drives away evil
31. Mouse—frugality, rebirth, scrutiny
32. Owl—deception, wisdom, clairvoyance, magic
33. Peacock—wholeness, dignity, beauty, self-assurance, pride
34. Pig—rebirth and rejuvenation
35. Raven—magic
36. Rooster—courageous, warlike, warmth and life of the universe
37. Seal—inner voice
38. Sheep—sacrifice
39. Snake—cunning, evil, supernatural power
40. Spider—destiny, fate, weaving
41. Swan—grace
42. Tiger—courage, bravery, fierceness, strength, being in the now
43. Turtle—mother earth
44. Zebra—individuality

Can you see the symbols used here?



"I'm going to suggest increasing your level of activity."