

The Four Humors: from Hippocrates to Shakespeare

"And there's the humor of it!" Shakespeare and the Four Humors

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Teacher's Melancholy

Using both the illustration and its accompanying text:

- 1. Mark the physical characteristics of the melancholic person by highlighting them
- 2. Mark the emotional and moral characteristics of the melancholic person by underlining them.



Henry Peacham, *Minerva Britanna*, 1612 Courtesy Folger Shakespeare Library

Here Melancholy musing in his fits,
Pale visaged, of complexion cold and dry,
All solitary, at his studies sits,
Within a wood, devoid of company:
Save Madge the owl, and melancholy Puss,
Light-loathing creatures, hateful, ominous.

His mouth, in <u>sign of silence</u>, up is bound, For Melancholy <u>loves not many words</u>: One foot on cube is fixed upon the ground, The which him <u>plodding constancy</u> affords: A sealed purse he bears, to show no vice, So proper is to him, as <u>avarice [greed]</u>.

