

Phlegm

Using both the illustration and its accompanying text,

1. Mark the physical characteristics of the phlegmatic person by circling them.
2. Mark the emotional and moral characteristics of the phlegmatic person by underlining them.

129 *Phlegma.*



HEERE *Phlegme* sits coughing on a Marble seate,
As Citie-usurers before their dore:
Of Bodie grosse, not through excesse of meate,
But of a Dropsie, he had got of yore:
His slothfull hand, in's bosome still he keeps,
Drincke, spits, or nodding, in the Chimney sleeps.
Beneath his feete, there doth a *Tortoise* crall,
For slowest pace, Sloth's Hieroglyphick here,
For Phlegmatique, hates Labour most of all,
As by his course araiment, may appeare:
Nor is he better furnished I find,
With Science, or the virtues of the mind.

Ad

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

[Modern English Translation of the text below the illustration]

Here Phlegm sits coughing on a marble seat, just like the money lenders in the city sit in front of their gold. His body is fat, not because he eats too much meat but because he has dropsy, so fluid has collected in his body. He keeps his lazy hand in his shirt as he drinks and spits and nods off to sleep by the chimney.

A tortoise crawls beneath his feet, symbolizing his sloth, or laziness, because Phlegm hates working most of all, as his coarse clothing indicates. Nor does he like to study or put his mind to good use.