

# *The Nightingale and the Rose* – Characters

## **The Student**

He's "young".

"In [his] garden there is no red rose."

He has got "beautiful eyes".

He has "read all that the wise men have written and all the secrets of philosophy".

He thinks his "life [is] made wretched" because he does not have a red rose.

"His hair is dark [...], and his lips are red."

"Passion has made his face like pale ivory, and sorrow has set her seal upon his brow."

He fears that "[his] heart will break".

The Student does not "understand what the Nightingale was saying to him, for he only knew the things that are written down in books."

He only thinks about his love, but he never actively tries to find a red rose.

As soon as the rose is no help any longer, he throws it "into the street, where it fell into the gutter, and a cart-wheel went over it".

He considers love to be unpractical and complains about love because it makes one believe "things that are not going to happen". He easily gives up.

## **The Professor's Daughter**

She is "[the Student's] love"

She has got a little dog.

She does not accept the rose because it does not match her dress.

(= her vanity)

She considers jewels more valuable because they cost more than the rose.

(= her superficiality)

## **The Prince**

He gives a ball the next day.

## **The Chamberlain's nephew**

He sends some real jewels to the professor's daughter.

## **The Nightingale**

"her nest [is] in the holm-oak tree"

She believes the student to be a "true lover".

By night she sings of love and the true lover.

She says "love is a wonderful thing [...], precious", it cannot be bought.

She understands "the secret of the Student's sorrow".

She has got "brown wings".

"Her voice was like water bubbling from a silver jar."

She symbolises love.

## **Animals, Plants**

There is a cynical Green Lizard, a Butterfly fluttering about and a Daisy with a soft, low voice.