

### Symbolic Setting

The woods are a **MICROCOSM** of the wider world. Thus the war taking place in them between Duror and Calum is symbolic of the conflict occurring in the world.

This idea of microcosm is displayed in the opening of the novel - gunshots, aeroplane, destroyer.....

It is developed through the progressive conflict between Duror and Calum (look especially at any references to war)

### Calum as a symbol of the imperfection that is Duror's life

"Her wheedling voice reminded him of the hunchback."

"For many years his life had been stunted, misshapen, obscene, and hideous; and this misbegotten creature was its personification."

### The symbolism in the novel's ending

- Calum's position in the tree - Christ like therefore implying the idea of sacrifice as well as goodness.
- Calum's smile a symbol of his goodness.
- The cones are a symbol of regeneration and they mix with Calum's blood before falling to the ground - new hope for the estate.
- Duror's death symbolic of the triumph of good over evil which is represented in Lady Runcie Campbell's reaction.
- The saving of Roderick - is he representative of a new sense of equality and fairness to come to the estate?

## 'The Cone-Gatherers'



### SYMBOLISM

### Calum as the symbol of goodness and innocence

How is this established?

- Chapter 1 his close association with animals, his simplicity and lack of human weaknesses, his beautiful face.
- Key incidents - the deer hunt and the doll.
- The novel's ending and his sacrificial death.

### Duror as the symbol of evil

How is this established?

- His obsession with and hatred of Calum (in the opening scenes) and his intention to have him removed from the woods.
- The inexplicable nature of his hatred and obsession
- Key incidents - the deer hunt, the pub, Roderick's pilgrimage, the doll.
- His actions at the ending.

### Duror and the Tree Symbolism

Constant comparisons drawn between Duror and trees.  
Tree symbolic of his mental state and the ultimate deterioration of his mind.