

## HOLISTIC TAROT SUPPLEMENT

This text is offered as a supplement to *Holistic Tarot: An Integrative Approach to Using Tarot for Personal Growth* (North Atlantic Books, 2015) by Benebell Wen.



### Reading with Signifiers

The following signifier reference chart represents the author’s approach. The many approaches to signifiers, or signifiers, are set forth in Chapter 10.

<i>Sun Sign</i>	<i>Court Card Signifier</i>	<i>Suit / Element</i>	<i>Personality Type</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aries</b> MAR 21 – APR 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leo</b> JUL 23 – AUG 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sagittarius</b> NOV 22 – DEC 21</p>	<p>PAGE for young female KNIGHT for young male QUEEN for adult female KING for adult male</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANDS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRE</b></p>	<p>Motivated, high-energy; born creators; thinks quickly. Dynamic personas; jovial, friendly faces; prominent, distinct features.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cancer</b> JUN 21 – JUL 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scorpio</b> OCT 23 – NOV 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pisces</b> FEB 19 – MAR 20</p>	<p>PAGE for young female KNIGHT for young male QUEEN for adult female KING for adult male</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CUPS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATER</b></p>	<p>Emotionally sensitive, compassionate, loving, kind; born nurturers. Doe-eyed, soft, pleasant, watery features.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Libra</b> SEPT 23 – OCT 22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aquarius</b> JAN 20 – FEB 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gemini</b> MAY 21 – JUN 20</p>	<p>PAGE for young female KNIGHT for young male QUEEN for adult female KING for adult male</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SWORDS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIR</b></p>	<p>Intelligent, witty, provocative; sharp, persuasive, analytical, judicious. Stern gaze, serious or alert eyes; classic, elegant features.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Capricorn</b> DEC 22 – JAN 19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Taurus</b> APR 20 – MAY 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Virgo</b> AUG 23 – SEPT 22</p>	<p>PAGE for young female KNIGHT for young male QUEEN for adult female KING for adult male</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENTACLES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EARTH</b></p>	<p>Grounded, reliable, loyal, trustworthy; stubborn. Possesses strong convictions. Refined physique; harmonious features. Pragmatic.</p>

## Selecting Signifiers

### General Rule to Signifiers:

Select a court card that corresponds with the seeker's sun sign (horoscope sign), gender, and either age or maturity. *Ex.* A Leo man in his late 40s would be a King of Wands; a Virgo girl who just graduated from junior college would be a Page of Pentacles.

### Exceptions:

Some seekers identify more with their ascendant sign than sun sign. These seekers will usually let you know their preference, in which case go with the ascendant sign. Some seekers may command a strong presence and a court card might not suffice as an anchoring signifier. A Major Arcanum corresponding with the sun sign or ascendant sign could work or opt for The Magician for a man and The High Priestess for a woman. In the alternative, the Major Arcanum corresponding with the seeker's Essence Card can be used, per Chapter 14, p. 404-407.



## Practice

Of course there is no right or wrong selection of a signifier. The following answers represent the author's personal approach to signifier selection. If you are open to learning the author's approach, then the following exercises will help you become proficient. Complete the below exercises with the signifier you select for each seeker and give a brief rationale. Author's answers are at the end.

Case #	Seeker Description	Signifier Selected	Rationale
1	A. is a Sagittarius and male. He is in his early 50s.		
2	B.'s date of birth is July 3, 1980. B. is a female. She is single, never married, has no children, and is asking about love.		
3	C.'s date of birth is January 25, 1961. C. identifies as a female.		
4	D. is a Capricorn and male. He is 19 years old.		
5	E.'s date of birth is April 10, 1991. E. is male.		
6	F.'s date of birth is October 26, 1991. F. is a female divorcee and has two children.		

7	G. is a Libra female. You do not know her age and it is a blind reading, i.e., you do not see her.		
8	H. is male and was born on May 1, 1951.		



Compare your above answers to the author's selected signifiers and her rationales:

Case #	Seeker Description	Signifier Selected	Rationale
1	A. is a Sagittarius and male. He is in his early 50s.	King of Wands	Sagittarius is a Fire sign, which corresponds with the suit of Wands. A. is an adult male, hence the King.
2	B.'s date of birth is July 3, 1980. B. is a female. She is single, never married, has no children, and is asking about love.	Page of Cups	Given the year of birth, at the time of the reading, B. is in her 30s, but some practitioners will assign the Page instead of a Queen for those in their 20s and 30s, especially if they have never been married and have no children. B.'s date of birth means she is a Cancer, which is a Water sign, thus Cups.
3	C.'s date of birth is January 25, 1961. C. identifies as a female.	High Priestess	Given the Aquarius sun sign, ordinarily the Queen of Swords (for Air signs) might be selected, but here C. had an incredibly powerful presence in front of the practitioner, and so the High Priestess was selected.
4	D. is a Capricorn and male. He is 19 years old.	Knight of Pentacles	Capricorn is an Earth sign, which corresponds with Pentacles. Since D. is a young man not yet fully matured, the Knight was selected.
5	E.'s date of birth is April 10, 1991. E. is male.	Key VII: The Chariot	Although per E.'s date of birth she is an Aries and would thus be a Fire sign, her Essence Card is The Chariot. If the

			practitioner feels pulled toward a Major instead of the general Knight of Wands, go with intuition.
6	F.'s date of birth is October 26, 1991. F. is a female divorcee and has two children.	Queen of Cups	Given the year of birth, at the time of the reading, F. is in her early 20s, and so ordinarily a Page would be selected. However, F. has had more life experiences than most her age, and so the Queen was chosen instead.
7	G. is a Libra female. You do not know her age and it is a blind reading, i.e., you do not see her.	Queen of Swords	Here, either the Queen for the corresponding suit can be selected or go with The High Priestess, as you know that G. is female. In this particular case, the practitioner was pulled to go for the Queen.
8	H. is male and was born on May 1, 1951.	King of Pentacles	Per H.'s date of birth, he is a Taurus, an Earth sign, which corresponds with Pentacles. Per his age, he is an adult male and so the King was selected.