

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Recognizing Allusions

An **allusion** is a brief, indirect reference to a person, place, thing or quality, often from a story. Many stories, and even everyday conversation, **allude** to characters from Greek mythology to communicate something about a person or a situation. Read about the well-known mythological characters below. Then write a sentence that alludes to each in order to communicate a particular quality.

### 1. Icarus and his father

Daedalus tried to escape from Crete with wings made of feathers and wax. Icarus ignored his father's warnings and flew too close to the sun. The wax on his wings melted, and he plunged into the sea.



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2. **Athena** was the daughter of Zeus and she did not have a mother. Instead, she was born directly out of Zeus's head. Athena is the goddess of wisdom.



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3. **Odysseus** was a famous warrior who had a long, difficult, exciting and unpredictable journey trying to get home after a war.



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**4. Pegasus** was a flying horse. He was the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea, and Medusa. Pegasus couldn't live with his father under the sea, and he didn't like his mother, or the snakes on her head. He was unusual and therefore of great value, and he was often kidnapped and had to be rescued by the gods. Pegasus was very lonely.



**5. Medusa** was once a beautiful woman. She angered the goddess Athena when she declared herself more beautiful than the goddess. To punish her, Athena turned Medusa into an ugly monster with snakes for hair. A single glance from Medusa could turn anyone to stone.



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