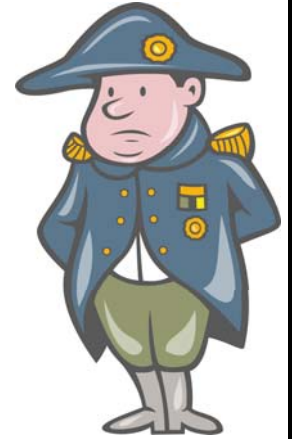


Name _____ **Figures of Speech**

Historical Allusions



An allusion is when a person or author makes an indirect reference to a (usually past) event or figure. An allusion does not give much detail about the reference or describe things in detail, as the event or figure is typically of momentous-significance historically, culturally, or politically, so the author has a reasonable expectation that people will understand the allusion without explanation. Allusions often make references to history.

DIRECTIONS: Each of the sentences below contains an historical allusion. Underline the allusion then explain its meaning.

1. After Rachel finished telling her story to the teacher, Karen looked at her and said, "You too, Brutus?"

2. As George answered yet another of their teacher's questions, before anyone else had a chance to think, Harry called out to George, "You're a regular Einstein!"

3. The boys had boasted about their plan, so everyone was a little amused when it sunk like the Titanic.

4. Though Roger was new in school, he soon got a reputation as being a Benedict Arnold; after that, he had trouble making friends.
