

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 are often used within a metaphor or simile. In these cases, the comparison alludes to an event or person of significance that should be widely recognized. Allusions often make reference to previous works of literature, especially references to the Bible and Greek or Roman mythology.

DIRECTIONS: Read each of the sentences below. Underline the allusion. Then identify the type of allusion. Write the correct letter on the line.

A. Literature

B. Mythology

C. Bible

- _____ 1. I don't get an allowance because my father is a real Scrooge.
- _____ 2. Jealous that his friend was no longer spending very much time with him now that he had a girlfriend, Ryan called out, "Well if it isn't Romeo!" when Michael finally showed up.
- _____ 3. Wendy lost thirty pounds on her diet, but admits that French fries are her Achilles' heel."
- _____ 4. When the restaurant in that location failed, the building owner saw it burning bush, and refused to lease the building to restaurateurs anymore.
- _____ 5. After her parents died, Edna walked around with the weight of the world on her shoulders
- _____ 6. Many states have laws that protect good Samaritans.